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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Meets To Discuss Lebanon

Saudi Minister Arrives

LD2604112589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Tunis 26 Apr (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince al-Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, arrived this morning in Tunis to attend the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, which will start later today, Wednesday, to discuss the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

Syrian, Algerian Envoys Meet

JN2704063389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in Tunis last night with Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh. They talked about the proceedings of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council on Lebanon.

Syrian Meets Kuwaiti, Libyan

JN2704100289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] In Tunis, [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister and chairman of the Arab League's six-member committee on Lebanon. Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh joined the meeting. They discussed the Arab League Council's emergency session on Lebanon.

Al-Shar' last night met with Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liasion and International Cooperation at the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. They discussed the Arab League Council's emergency session on Lebanon.

Tariq 'Aziz Addresses Meeting

JN2704114489 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, Apr. 27, INA—Second session of the Arab League emergency meeting on Lebanon is due to start here later today chaired by Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, and chairman of the Arab League current session.

The Arab League Council held its first closed-door session last night and considered an Arab League six-man committee report on Lebanon.

Mr. 'Aziz, opening the session, praised the committee's efforts concerning Lebanon and confirmed that security to deterioration there had raised concern and dismay among the Arab nation, while the committee had been carrying on its task and that made the Arab League appeal for a ceasefire to enable the Arab League committee to pursue its mission, Mr. 'Aziz said.

He added that deterioration in Lebanon had continued the case that stimulated the committee to call for an emergency meeting in order to examine the grave, tragic situation which did not only threaten Lebanon, but also the whole national security as well.

Mr. 'Aziz said the Arab countries had urgently responded to the appeal for such a meeting. He emphasised the necessity to adopt appropriate attitudes vis-a-vis current grave dangers, calling on the Arab League to shoulder responsibility for passing successful and responsible resolutions.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary General, Chedli Klibi, addressed the conferees saying the constitutional crisis in Lebanon had had grave dimensions owing to presidential crisis, executive power division and legislative power delay.

The Arab League secretary general added that the six-man committee had done all its best to carry out its mission to solve the Lebanese crisis while the situation had been dangerously escalated during the last few weeks.

The six-man committee, chaired by Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, and including foreign ministers of Algeria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Sudan as well as the Arab League secretary general, had had contacts and deliberations with the Lebanese parties and then worked out a report of proposals submitted to the Arab foreign ministers.

Informed sources told INA correspondent here that among those proposals were an appeal for a ceasefire in Lebanon, formation of an Arab League ceasefire observer force, and identifying size, quality and structure of that force under the supervision of the Arab league secretary general. The sources pointed that the Arab League secretariat general had prepared a working paper to that effect.

Jordanian Criticizes U.S. Stand

JN2704131189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 89

[George Bashir dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers resumed their closed meeting at 1300 today, 1 hour later than scheduled, because of consultations among the heads of delegations in an attempt to reach a common denominator that will promote the Arab Military Supervision Commission plan to effect a cease-fire all over Lebanon.

Last night, there were deliberations among the delegates as well as sharp verbal exchanges between the Syrian and Iraqi delegates. More than one Arab side took part in the deliberations.

The meeting is still closed, and the topic of discussion is the cease-fire and attacks on civilians. The differences now are on whether or not Syria is involved in the fighting.

Today, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' admitted for the first time that the Syrian Army is opening fire, but in self-defense and to respond to attacks from General 'Awn's positions. Al-Shar' added that had the Syrian Army really been involved in fighting, it would have decided the issue with General 'Awn's army a long time ago.

The point of contention is the reference to those involved in fighting as "the warring sides in Lebanon" or "those who are fighting in Lebanon." The Syrian side insists on "stopping the fire among the Lebanese sides." However, the six-member committee insists on naming "those fighting in Lebanon." This prompted the Iraqi delegation to raise a new issue today to oppose using the term "the Lebanese sides," threatening to express reservations.

This is the bone of contention inside the closed meeting. Meanwhile, the Saudi, Bahraini, and UAE foreign ministers are exerting their efforts to reconcile the two viewpoints to prepare the ground for discussion of the Military Supervision Commission.

The Arab delegates today were unanimous in praising Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim's speech at dawn today concerning U.S. responsibility in the current events in the Arab world, especially in Lebanon, and what he called the odd U.S. silence toward the partition plot that began in Iraq [as heard] and is now passing through Lebanon, and the need to implement Resolution No 425 on Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. Al-Qasim asked all the Arab states to firmly oppose the bloodbath and the destruction that is about to wipe out the Lebanese state, homeland, and people.

Tariq 'Aziz on Cease-Fire

JN2704171889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, 27 Apr (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has announced that the Arab League Council has declared a cease-fire in Lebanon as of midday tomorrow, Lebanon local time. Tariq 'Aziz, chairman of the emergency session of the Arab League, told journalists at the conclusion of the session today that the Arab League Council has adopted the necessary measures to implement the resolutions taken by the council. The resolutions include the formation of an Arab observers group to supervise the cease-fire. The Arab countries will pay the expenses of this group.

'Aziz expressed hope that these resolutions will be implemented. He added that the Arab League Council would employ its weight to enable the six-man committee to continue its missions.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that the Arab observers group would act swiftly after the chairman of the Arab ministerial committee and the Arab League secretary general agree on the details of the formation.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the Arab observers' group will remain in Lebanon until the six-man committee accomplishes its mission in settling the Lebanese crisis and reaches sound solutions. He stressed that the warring Lebanese and non-Lebanese parties would be responsible for implementing the agreement.

'Aziz added the political file of the Lebanese crisis has been shelved for a coming stage until the six-man committee completes its moves and contacts on the Lebanese crisis.

Meanwhile, the Arab League Council, which began its meetings yesterday, issued a press statement announcing its decision to lift the blockade imposed on all naval, land, air utilities and open all Lebanese crossing points for a period of 3 months. The council also decided to set up a team from the member states to supervise the cease-fire in Lebanon. This team will be directly linked with the Arab League secretary general. The team will be deployed along the contact lines and will be charged with supervising the cease-fire and lifting the blockade imposed on utilities and crossing points between the two parts of Beirut.

The Arab League statement says that the commander of the Arab observation group will be from the state chairing the six-man committee on Lebanon. The member states will shoulder the responsibility of financing the expenses of forming the group in accordance with each state's contribution to the Arab League Council budget. The Arab League Council decided to allocate a sum of $3 million to cover the expenses of the group for a period of 3 months.

Task of Observers' Group Viewed

JN2704181889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Apr 89

[George Bashir dispatch from Tunis]

[Excerpt] The Arab League Council once again has taken control of the Lebanese file and has re-Arabized the Lebanese cause. The council has done so in preparation for seeking an Arab solution to the crisis through the establishment of an Arab observers group to implement the cease-fire decision that was made today and that will be implemented as of 1200 Beirut time, tomorrow, Friday.

The Arab observers group will be headed by a ranking Kuwaiti officer who will be appointed tomorrow, as well as a representative of the Arab League secretary general. Agreement was reached that this Arab League official will be Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, the Arab League assistant secretary general. This decision was made after the council rejected the appointment of Major General Al-Takruri, a Syrian who currently is a military adviser to the Arab League.

The chairman of the six-member Arab committee will be represented in the Arab observers group by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Syria Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim.

The Arab observers group was formed by the Arab League council to operate under the Arab League flag and to monitor the cease-fire in Lebanon. It will be directly linked to the Arab League secretary general. Its task is to take up positions along the contact lines, monitor the cease-fire, lift the siege from the public utilities in Lebanon and the crossing points between the two parts of Beirut to prevent their being closed again. Its task will also be to pinpoint the party responsible for any violation of all this. The groups of observers must reach Beirut as soon as possible without any delay to carry out their duties during the next 2 days. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Meets Omani, Lebanese

JN2704165189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in Tunis today with Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani state minister for foreign affairs. They discussed the Arab League Council's emergency session on Lebanon.

The foreign minister also received in Tunis today Dr Ilyas Saba, representative of Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. They also discussed the Arab League Council's emergency session on Lebanon.

Kuwaiti Meets Saudi, Omani

LD2704203289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1537 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, April 27 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh 'Sabah al-Ahmad received at his residence here Thursday Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Omani Foreign Affairs Minister Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah.

Well informed sources told KUNA that discussions during the two meetings tackled issues pertaining to the Lebanese crisis and means of ending the ongoing fighting there.

Al-Shar' Discusses Syrian Role

JN2804073789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has asserted that Syria supports dialogue to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Answering questions from journalists and news agency correspondents following the conclusion of the Arab League Council's session [on Lebanon], Al-Shar' added: Michel 'Awn was the one who chose the military solution. He is very isolated now and lives on the second basement floor of the palace—the palace in which he should not be until a president is elected.

Answering another question, Minister Al-Shar' said: Many Lebanese citizens in Beirut's eastern sector have discovered that 'Awn's policy is suicidal and harms the Christians much more than the Muslims. The waves of immigration from Lebanon, which began from the eastern sector, prove this.

Al-Shar' added: 'Awn is responsible for the destruction that occurred from 14 March until now.

The minister said that the high level of responsibility by the political figures and deputies in the eastern sector, at the head of whom is Patriarch Sfir, prompted them to point the finger of accusation against 'Awn.

Al-Shar' said: We believe that now Syria enjoys the understanding and support of the majority of Lebanese, not only the Muslims and nationalists, but also all honorable leading Christian and Maronite figures in the eastern sector.

As for the Iraqi regime's position, the foreign minister said: None of the Arab delegations that took part in the Arab League Council's session supported the Iraqi delegation. Therefore, the Arab League Council's resolution clearly stated that the fighting is among the Lebanese sides. This was clearly stated in the introduction to the resolution.

Answering a question on the Arab states that will take part in the observers' team, Al-Shar' said: The states that will take part in the Arab observers' team must be acceptable to the warring Lebanese sides.

Answering another question, the foreign minister explained that General 'Awn's problem is with all the Lebanese, including the Lebanese Christians in East Beirut. He said that the Bkirki statement was clear in its support for political dialogue to solve the Lebanese crisis, while Michel 'Awn was becoming insolent and over stringent for the sake of a military solution.

Al-Shar' added: Now Michel 'Awn is condemned and isolated even among the group that he thinks supports his reckless positions. There is only a handful of people around him. This handful, as we said before, does not represent the Christians, and he cannot talk with any form of legitimacy in Lebanon.

As for the role of the observers' team, Al-Shar' said: The observers' team is limited in number, and its task is to report any violation of the cease-fire.

Regarding the way out of the Lebanese crisis as Syria sees it, the minister said: When the Arab League Council meets to discuss this subject, Syria will clearly and frankly make its opinion on this issue. During the discussions, it became clear that the Syrian position is widely supported by all Arab states except the Iraqi delegation. Therefore, the Iraqi delegation was isolated.

Perez De Cuellar on Lebanon, West Bank Elections

LD2704204389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1930 GMT 27 Apr 89

[By Naceur Ma'tir]

[Text] Vienna, April 27 (KUNA)—U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced here Thursday that he will meet tomorrow, Friday with Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to discuss latest developments in the Lebanese [words indistinct] de Cuellar, addressing a press conference immediately on arrival here this afternoon, said that he will also discuss with the Kuwaiti top official possible cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations to put an end to the civil war in Lebanon.

The meeting will be either tomorrow in Vienna or the day after in Paris, the U.N. chief said.

Responding to a KUNA question on his plans for Lebanon following the Security Council assignment, he explained that he still was awaiting a final word from Shaykh Sabah on his readiness for the meeting.

Meanwhile, a well informed diplomatic source told KUNA that the Kuwaiti foreign minister will arrive here tomorrow on a few hours private visit.

De Cuellar arrived here from Poland on an official two-day visit to Austria within a tour of a number of European countries.

Whether he supported Arab League efforts to settle the Lebanese crisis, De Cuellar affirmed that the U.N. does not intend to compete with the Arab League over peace efforts in Lebanon.

He added that he will discuss with Sheikh Sabah, who is heading a six-member Arab League committee on Lebanon, cooperation between the two organizations.

The U.N. senior official said that he will not interfere with resolutions of the League on Lebanon.

Asked whether he supports the full membership at the U.N. of the Palestine state declared by the Palestine National Council in Algeria last November, De Cuellar said that the matter was up to the Security Council and the General Assembly to decide and added that he cannot state his personal opinion in the affair.

De Cuellar answering another KUNA question, said that the U.N. will be happy to supervise free and democratic elections that would lead to peace in the occupied Arab territories.

He explained that the U.N. can only organize such elections if commissioned to do so.

Shifting to the Iraq-Iran peace negotiation that concluded its fourth round in Geneva recently, De Cuellar said that contacts between the two parties on the experts level will continue to determine date and venue of the next round.

He denied proposing a plan to activate the stalled gulf peace process during the latest round and clarified "I table ideas not plans".

He hoped the next round of talks would be held in June either in Geneva or New York and did not rule out a delay in the date to July in view of coming elecitons in Iran.

De Cuellar also defended the international organization's efforts to prevail peace in Afghanistan and supervise Namibia's independence process.

Palestinian Affairs

Executive Committee Calls Shamir Plan 'Maneuver'

JN2704212689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1805 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee and the secretaries general of the resistance factions and the Palestinian leaderships held a series of meetings between 22 and 24 April 1989 to consider the latest developments, particularly in light of mounting terrorist actions and Israeli massacres against our people and to discuss the tasks of the Palestinian struggle at this stage on all fronts.

The conferees agreed on the following:

First—the continuation and development of our blessed people's intifadah [uprising] is the major task at this juncture in that it is the moving force toward a just solution to the Palestinian cause that guarantees the right of return and self-determination and sovereign statehood on our national soil.

This task requires that all forms of support and backing be secured for the popular intifadah and that further efforts be exerted toward exposing and denouncing the crimes and terror of the Israeli occupiers including killings, poison gas use, school and university closures, mass arrests, plant destruction, and attacks at holy places.

The conferees expressed their deep appreciation for the role of the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah as the arm of the PLO in the occupied territories and voiced the need for this role to be reinforced and entrenched. The conferees also expressed the need to support the popular and specialized committees as well as the strike forces and all the organizations and bodies that shoulder the duty of resisting occupation and firming up national steadfastness.

The conferees stressed the importance of pursuing the struggle to bolster the national economy, boycott the occupation authorities' institutions, build up popular education, and make available the staples of steadfastness. The conferees further highly appreciate the spirit of solidarity and cohesiveness among the various segments of our people that testifies to a deep-rooted Palestinian national unity led by the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative.

The conferees also emphasized the need to upgrade the role of the PLO's institutions and its agencies and the struggle of our people's various communities outside the occupied territory in order to ensure the highest level of backing for the intifadah.

Second, the conferees confirmed the position declared by the PLO on the Shamir project for so-called elections as declared by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah along with all segments of our people in the occupied homeland. This project is a maneuver seeking to extricate Israel from its total isolation and outflank the efforts being made to convene the international peace conference.

They said the road to a fair peace lies in serious preparations for the international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties to the conflict including the PLO. The conferees pointed out that the American posture on that project encourages Israel's intransigence and its continued occupation of our land.

They emphasized that elections as an exercise in democracy are not to be divorced from freedom, self-determination, and independence, and that the requirements of free elections can only exist after the Israeli withdrawal and under international supervision and in the framework of an integrated plan for a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian cause.

Third, the conferees highly valued the political moves being effected by the PLO leadership—the moves that are mainly based on the Palestine National Council [PNC] intifadah session and affirmed the importance of continuing the Palestinian peace offensive launched by the Palestinian peace initiative announced by brother President Yasir 'Arafat at the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

The conferees reached the conclusion that this principled policy, which serves the interests of our people, meets the requirements of just peace, and constitutes a true and honest expression of the objectives of the valiant intifadah, has scored several gains and accomplishments and opened actual horizons for the victory of our people's struggle as regards the extrication of their independence on their national soil.

The conferees also valued the invitation extended by President Mitterrand to brother Yasir 'Arafat [to visit France], considering that this invitation is a position that reflects France's important and advanced role in bolstering the peace process and the peoples' right to self-determination. They also stressed their appreciation of the principled position taken by the friendly USSR in its support for the struggle being waged by our people under the leadership of the PLO and also for the positions of support, friendship, and solidarity taken by the PRC, the Nonaligned Movement states, the African and Islamic states, and also for the positions and roles of the EC.

They stressed the importance of developing this role. They also valued the recent improvement in the stands of Japan, Canada, and other states.

While noting the position voiced by U.S. President Bush on terminating the occupation, the conferees called on the United States to develop its position vis-a-vis our people's rights, especially their right to self-determination in a manner that would lead to realizing progress in the U.S-Palestinian dialogue and to the attainment of a just and durable peace.

Fourth, the conferees emphasized support for the call for convening an extraordinary Arab summit in fraternal Morocco to enhance all forms of Arab support for the intifadah being staged by our people, to entrench Arab solidarity, and to contribute to helping the fraternal Lebanese people end the catastrophe that they have been confronting and ensure the unity, independence, and Arab affiliation of Lebanon.

The conferees also reiterated the importance of effecting coordination among the five Arab parties concerned with an international peace conference and of developing the Arab role on various levels, especially on the international level to bring about the convening of this conference.

The conferees were also acquainted with the results of the contacts held with the Israeli forces pursuing a just peace and opposing occupation and affirmed that efforts will continue with them, and that these efforts will be based on the PNC resolutions. The conferees also emphasized the importance of developing their role in effecting serious changes in the Israeli position on the peace process.

The conferees also asserted the importance of enhancing joint action, constant consultation, and a collective spirit within the framework of the PLO and its top echelons in a manner that would strengthen national unity and develop the PLO's role on various levels.

The conferees salute our steadfast people who are struggling against the Israeli occupation. They also salute the women, men, and children of our people, as well as those holding out in the jails of the Zionist terrorism.

They also hold in high esteem the immaculate blood of the martyrs who have fallen for the sake of extricating the freedom and independence of the Palestinian homeland. These sacrifices affirm to the entire world that our people will continue to uphold the banner of national struggle until the realization of their national objectives.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O ye who believe! If ye will aid God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

Arab Knesset Member Presents Rabin Plan to PLO

PM2704161989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Apr 89 pp 1,2

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "Palestinian Knesset Member on Secret Mission; 'Ideas' from Rabin to PLO Leadership"]

[Excerpt] London, Jerusalem, Nazareth—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT exclusive—'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, Arab member of the Israeli parliament (Knesset), has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that in the past 2 days he has conveyed to the Palestinian leadership "ideas, including details of a new plan proposed by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin." He denied having delivered a message from Rabin to the Palestinian leadership or having visited Tunis, as claimed yesterday by Arab sources in occupied Jerusalem.

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his home in the village of Aksal (Nazareth district), Darawshah said that on his own personal initiative he met with Yitzhaq Rabin last Wednesday and heard from him an explanation of the ideas on a new plan for peace and the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Rabin said he was confident the Labor Party would adopt.

Darawshah said that he had told Rabin that he intended to meet with the Palestinian leadership, convey these ideas to it, and hear its answer and concept. Rabin replied: "I am talking to you as a Knesset member and you are free to do what you like."

Darawshah added that he did indeed meet at the end of last week with a number of Palestinian leaders headed by President Yasir 'Arafat and including [Fatah Central Committee Member] Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), [PLO Executive Committee Member] Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin), and others, and that he conveyed to them the ideas in Rabin's plan and heard their views, which were in harmony with the general Palestinian position defined in the resolutions passed by the Palestine National Council [PNC] at its latest session in Algiers.

Darawshah denied that he met with them in Tunis. He said that he "met with them in Cairo."

On the Rabin ideas conveyed to the Palestinian leadership, Darawshah said:

"The plan is in two stages and contains new ideas more advanced than Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan which, it has now been confirmed, is rejected at Palestinian, Arab, and international levels." He added: "The first of the two stages is for a period of 5 years and begins with the election of a Palestinian ruling authority [sultat hukm Falastiniyah], and I repeat, Rabin did use the expression Palestinian ruling authority, not "autonomy," and say that that authority would run all the affairs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the exception of security, foreign affairs, and settlements. The second stage would begin 3 years after the beginning of the first stage and would be the phase of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on the basis that the Palestinian delegation would be an independent delegation including an equal number of representatives from the West Bank and Gaza Strip on one hand and the Palestinians abroad on the other, and the negotiations would be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the land-for-peace principle."

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Darawshah also said that one of the new points in Rabin's plan was his assertion that "the people of East Jerusalem may participate in the election of the Palestinian ruling authority, but through the electoral constituencies of Bethlehem or Ramallah," and that "the matter of international supervision of the elections is not totally rejected, but Rabin prefers supervision to be confined to American observers and might agree to observers from West European states in addition to the American observers."

On the Jordanian role in the phase of negotiations, Darawshah said that Rabin's plan is based on "the necessity of Jordan's being a partner in the negotiations, but not as a substitute for the Palestinians."

On the Palestinian leadership's reaction to "these ideas," Darawshah said that the PLO "wants a complete concept of peace, not ideas, and insists that any peace concept must be based on two states, one Palestinian and the other Israeli, and that negotiations should be based on UN General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947 in addition to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

Darawshah added that he "will, in the next 2 days, convey this reply to Yitzhaq Rabin and other Israeli officials, as well as the Israeli public so that everyone may know that the PLO is serious in its quest for peace and that the ball is now in the Israeli court."

Concluding his statement, Darawshah said that he came out of his meeting with the Palestinian leadership "with positive impressions of consistency in the Palestinian position and flexibility in the Palestinian leadership and its interest in a just peace." [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni, Kan'an Discuss Goals of 'Uprising'

JN2504190089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Apr 89 p 5

[By Wajdi Zayn al-Din and Muhammad 'Ismat]

[Text] AL-WAFD has met with two leaders from the occupied territories during their short visit to Egypt. They are Faysal al-Husayni and Sa'id Kan'an, former members of the Palestine National Council. They gave us unequivocal answers about the views of Palestinians in the occupied territories on the goals of the intifadah [uprising] and its ability to achieve its strategic aims, starting with the use of violence and going through comprehensive civil obedience. The text of the dialogue with Faysal al-Husayni follows:

Faysal 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni stressed that the Israeli defense minister gives, every now and then, orders to arrest and detain the largest possible number of Palestinians for a period of no more than 6 months under the pretext that these people constitute a threat to the security of the state. The defendant is given the opportunity to appear before the secret court and is allowed to see the list of charges against him.

[Question] Who are the defendants?

[Al-Husayni] They are all the Palestinians and all those who are involved in political acts against Israel. For example, the occupation accused me of being a senior Fatah official, and then upgraded this accusation so that I became the senior official in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza. Over a period of 22 months—from 3 April 1987 to 29 January 1989—I was arrested four times. Three of these were administrative detentions, and the fourth was for investigations that lasted 10 days.

[Question] Where is the intifadah stronger, in Jerusalem or in the West Bank?

[Al-Husayni] There are extensive moves in Jerusalem. In the other cities, however, the moves are somewhat routine. There are 5,000 soldiers in Jerusalem, assembled from various locations to confront the intifadah. The soldiers fail daily in their attempts to prevent anything. Fierce battles also take place in other places, such as [illegible], [illegible], the post office suburb, the airport area, the old city of Jerusalem, and Bayt Hanina. In Salah al-Din Street in Jerusalem, for instance, the massive police presence gave the city the air of occupation, and Israel did not care for this.

[Question] Yasir 'Arafat was recently elected as president of the Palestinian state. How has this echoed?

[Al-Husayni] With the declaration of the State of Palestine, adoption of statehood measures, and establishment of regular state institutions, it was inevitable that a president for this state be elected. Invitations were extended to the PLO chief as the president of the state in order that the meetings with him can be between equals. 'Arafat was elected unanimously.

[Question] Who is activating the intifadah in the occupied territories?

[Al-Husayni] The Palestinian leaderships were created on the local scene. They are able to renew themselves and make up for their losses. The basic problem facing Israel is its failure to identify the leadership of the intifadah. Israel has announced the arrest of the intifadah leaders on six occasions, but the intifadah has continued and its calls have been appearing on time.

This has frustrated Israel and made it realize that it is fighting something as untouchable as a ghost. Israel is also promoting that the intifadah's glow was extinguished. However, what happens daily in Jerusalem emphasizes that the intifadah is still glowing. The best evidence of this is the closure of universities and schools, the continued boycott of Israeli goods, and the declaration by Israel of large areas as military zones to which journalists and cameramen are denied access.

The text of the dialogue with Sa'id Kan'an follows:

[Question] From your experiences of the Palestinian intifadah inside the occupied territories, where does the the peaceful solution, which has been worrying the whole world, lie on the map of the intifadah, which has entered its 17th month?

[Kan'an] It is obvious that in the near future there will be no military option as a solution to the Palestine question because of the Arab situation and the international balance that we all know. This is no secret. The alternative, then, is the political solution that cannot be realized unless one of the sides has pressure cards to put itself in the negotiating position that would enable it to realize peace.

We, as Palestinians, seek peace. President 'Arafat declared a Palestinian peace initiative in Geneva, while relying on the blessed intifadah in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The intifadah gave President 'Arafat a strong, pressure weapon with which he could stand in a position of power, present his peace initiative, and convince world public opinion of the seriousness of our efforts for peace and that it is time for a historic reconciliation between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples with full Arab agreement based on the Fes 1982 summit resolution and the resolutions of all the Arab summits that took place after that.

We rely on Arab legitimacy in all our moves within the framework of the intfadah, which has convinced everyone of the justness of our cause and the necessity to move in the direction of political action. On the other hand, the intifadah came about to remove our cause from the shelf where it had been forgotten and impose itself as a crisis on everyone.

Therefore, we as Palestinians, whether on the inside or the outside [of the territories], are fully aware of the importance of continuing and escalating the initifadah to realize peace, attain our goals of Israeli withdrawal, and achieve our liberty and independence by setting up the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of our sole, legitimate representative, the PLO.

[Question] Within this framework, through which you have shed light on the nature of the intifadah, could you clarify the relationship between the Islamic forces represented by Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], which is affiliated to the PLO and the other political forces?

[Kan'an] This is a question that is always posed to us. First of all, we on the inside are united in one dense front against the occupation. We are united under the Unified National Leadership, which reflects the forces present on the Palestinian territory inside in one trench against the Israeli occupation. The Unified National Leadership is the representative of the Palestinian people's opinion on the inside. It is the struggle and political arm of the PLO. It is also a part of the PLO.

[Question] What has been the effect of Shamir's last plan on the people in the occupied territories?

[[Kan'an] I have yet to learn of one person inside the occupied territories who upholds Shamir's plan, which he proposed in Washington on elections in the occupied territories. We on the inside refuted it as soon as we heard about it, for more than one reason. First and foremost, Shamir wants to suggest that there are two Palestinian people, one on inside and the other outside, having nothing to with the cause. should this go here or in algeria?

Algerian Sources on Progress in Syrian-PLO Ties

PM2704113289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Apr 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Official Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Arrangements for Palestinian Delegation Visit to Damascus; Progress in Mediation Between Two Sides"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official Algerian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh's visit to the Syrian capital 2 weeks ago made tangible progress in connection with normalization of Syrian-Palestinian relations and that several obstacles that had prevented the restoration of normal relations between the two sides have been eliminated.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Minister Bessaieh's tour, which covered a number of capitals in addition to Damascus, was made in the context of resolving Arab problems and that the Damascus visit focused on a number of issues between Syria and the PLO.

The sources also said that the Syrian leadership, particularly Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, fully supported the Algerian mission's success in this regard.

Although they declined to give a specific date for a visit to the Syrian capital by a Palestinian delegation, the sources said that a number of measures are expected in this connection.

Earlier this week Minister Bessaieh reported to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on the results of his visits to Damascus, Amman, and Baghdad. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Reportedly to Visit Italy 20 May

JN2804075989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Apr (WAKH)—The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today reported that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will make an official visit to Italy on 20 May at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita.

The newspaper cited Italian Government sources as saying that the Italian Government is currently lobbying all the EEC countries to persuade them to extend official invitations to the Palestinian president to visit them to discuss means to boost the peace process in the Middle East and support the PLO's positive steps toward achieving peace in the region.

The paper added that these sources said that, during his visit to Rome, President 'Arafat will meet with leaders of various Italian parties and senior officials and will brief them on the outcome of his official visit to France, which will take place on 2 and 3 May.

Faruq Qaddumi Visits Peru, Meets Garcia

For Lima television accounts of the visit to Peru by Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO Political Department and member of the PLO Executive Committee, including his meeting with Peruvian President Alan Garcia, see the Peru section of the 25 April Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Prisoners Reportedly Escape Israeli Detention

JN2504165589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 25 Apr 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (WAKH)—It was disclosed here today that three Palestinian strugglers escaped from prison in the occupied territories and arrived safe in an Arab country.

An official Palestinian source told a WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that the three strugglers escaped from Megiddo prison near Janin on 26 February. They had a well-contrived plan that enabled them to infiltrate all Israeli checkpoints and leave the occupied territories.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the three prisoners were serving long sentences on charges of resistance of occupation.

The official said that Muhammad Nimr Muhammad Shutaywi from Kafr Qud, Ziyad Ahmad Mahmud 'Uthman from Janin camp, and Riyad Khalil Hassan Abu Salim from Biddiya challenged the occupation authorities in one of the most daring escape operations and managed to mislead the occupation forces throughout their long journey.

The official declined to specify the wherabouts of the three strugglers. He said: The military patrols of the Zionist enemy failed to recapture them or track them down, and they arrived safely at their destination.

Egypt

Officials Deny Interest in Nuclear Weapons

JN2704161889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Apr 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (WAKH)—A senior Egyptian official has denied Western allegations of an Egyptian interest in the production of weapons of wholesale destruction.

Egypt's state minister for military production, Dr Jamal al-Sayyid, emphasized his country's commitment to its international obligations in this regard.

He told a press conference to mark his country's participation in the first Baghdad military fair that Egypt has no plans to produce nuclear or chemical weapons.

Meanwhile, Egypt's Ambassador in Baghdad Ibrahim 'Awf, who was present at the press conference, called such statements groundless fabrications.

Certain non-Arab states in the region are behind these rumors to create a smokescreen behind their nuclear effort, 'Awf said.

The ambassador noted that Egypt has signed all of the international treaties banning nuclear weapons and has allowed an inspection of its facilities by world organizations.

He further denied allegations of a joint Egyptian-Iraqi-Argentinian effort to produce a rocket with a nuclear warhead, calling them tendentious rumors.

Egypt has not joined in any such program and has not entered into any such project with Iraq, the ambassador added. Such allegations have been initiated by a regional power that fails to abide by international conventions and has a nuclear program and engages in aggression. The aim is to divert attention from evil programs it is preparing for the region and to find pretexts for aggressions against states in the region, the minister said.

Egypt has suspended the production of electric power from its nuclear reactors, he added.

Along with Jordan and Saudi Arabia and the host nation Iraq, Egypt is taking part in the fair which opens tomorrow.

The Egyptian state minister confirmed the reported U.S. objections to the displaying of jointly-produced articles at the fair and noted that the moratorium applies to certain types of vehicles rather than to arms. This will have no impact on Egyptian-produced articles, he said.

The value of Egypt's production of the Military Industrialization Organization for last year was 1.2 billion Egyptian pounds, including 85-million-pounds worth of military products, said Al-Sayyid.

The minister stressed that his country and Iraq are cooperating in the production of weapons, noting that the cooperation predated the launching of the Arab Cooperation Council.

Interior Minister Bans Religious Symbols on Cars

JN2804090289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Apr 89 p 6

[By Majdi 'Abd al-Ghani]

[Text] Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr told AL-AKHBAR that he has given instructions to traffic police officers to allow citizens to place professional symbols on their cars, but all religious symbols, slogans, or stickers must be removed from both the inside and outside of cars.

The minister said that he has ordered officers in charge of investigating and combatting car thefts to look for the sources that print and distribute religious stickers for cars and told the officers to confiscate them and file charges against their distributors. If these persons repeat the offense, emergency regulations will be applied against them.

Badr said that the police will sternly punish all those who threaten the security of the citizens.

Arrival of Soviet Spokesman Gerasimov Slated

NC2704120789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Soviet Official Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov will arrive in Cairo this week on a visit that will last several days.

The visit aims to intensify contacts between Egypt and the Soviet Union, foster bilateral cooperation, and allow the exchange of views prior to the forthcoming meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker scheduled to take place in Moscow on 10 May.

Mubarak Receives French Interior Minister

NC2704144089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Zaki Badr and the French charge d'affaires in Cairo.

Following the meeting, the French minister stated that he had conveyed greetings to President Mubarak from French President Mitterrand. He added: We in France are aware of the significant role being played by President Mubarak and Egypt in resolving the Palestinian issue.

He said that he and President Mubarak discussed Palestinian developments, in light of the forthcoming meeting between President Mitterrand and Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat.

He added that the meeting dealt with French-Egyptian relations in general.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC2804084189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0719 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Sayyid Ahmad Al-Husayn, Sudanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister [name and title as received], arrived in Cairo from Tunis early this morning for a 3-day visit.

In an arrival statement, he disclosed that during his stay in Tunis he participated in the emergency session of the Arab League's ministerial council to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

He said that he is looking forward to meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and that he will discuss the current situation in Sudan with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Commenting on the situation in southern Sudan, he disclosed that the John Garang movement was informed on 4 April of the Sudanese Government's acceptance of the peace intiatitive, which was launched by the Unionist Party and the Garang movement. He said that a Sudanese ministerial committee has been set up and that this committee will meet with Garang's movement next week to agree on the implementation of the peace initiative, to set a date for a cease-fire in the south, and to fix a date for the convocation of a constitutional conference in Sudan.

The Sudanese official was received at the airport by Al-Amin 'Abd al-Latif, Sudan's ambassador in Cairo; Ambassador Samih Darwish, deputy director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and Counsellor Sami Yasin, member of the protocol staff at the Foreign Ministry.

Envoy Calls for Mediation in Afghanistan

NC2704150889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Hamid al-Dia Rahimi, head of Afghanistan's interests mission in Cairo [name and title as received], has stated that his country has requested Egypt to mediate between the Afghan Government and the rebels to achieve peace and reconciliation in the country.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Rahimi said that his government has appealed to Al-Azhar Grand Shaykh Jad al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq and Muslim scholars in Egypt to intervene to end the bloodshed among Muslim brothers in Afghanistan.

He pointed out that Afghan President Najibullah sent messages to the leaders of Muslim countries, including President Husni Mubarak, about a month ago, appealing to them to act in order to end the fighting, particularly in these months of grace.

Touching on technical cooperation between Egypt and Afghanistan, Rahimi expressed his government's desire to bolster relations with Egypt in these fields. He said: Diplomatic ties between our countries go back to 1928. We want to raise the representation to ambassadorial level. [passage omitted]

PDRY Foreign Minister To Pay Official Visit

JN2804081489 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Apr 89 p 6

[By Muhammad Barakat]

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], will arrive in Cairo next Sunday [30 April] on a 3-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The first session of official talks between the Egyptian and PDRY sides is scheduled to be held at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Monday under the chairmanship of the two foreign ministers. Talks will deal with the Middle East situation, the latest Arab and Palestinian developments, and bilateral relations.

The PDRY foreign minister's visit is the first of its kind on this level for over 10 years.

Editorial Views Mitterrand-'Arafat Meeting

JN2804095289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Apr 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Meeting That Provokes Shamir's Anger, Chagrin"]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand's invitation to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to meet with him is considered a great gain that cannot be belittled for the movement aiming to realize peace in the Middle East, especially since the meeting will be held on the eve of Mitterrand's visit to Washington to meet with President Bush. It is expected that the Palestinian problem will occupy a prominent place on the agenda of the Mitterrand-Bush talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not hide his anger and chagrin when his attempts and pressures failed to persuade the French president not to meet with Palestinian leader 'Arafat because he is well aware of the signifcance of this event on the international level and its possible effects on Palestinian developments and the PLO role, which Shamir tries to cancel or ignore despite the international consensus on recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It is noteworthy that despite overt and covert Israeli attempts and warnings to prevent the EC states from receiving 'Arafat and his Palestinian comrades, the latter are being accorded official and popular welcome in the most prominent EC countries that sympathize with the PLO, such as Italy, Greece, the FRG, Spain, the Netherlands, and others.

Palestinian leaders and many Arab and foreign leaders recognize the important bearing the Egyptian diplomatic moves have had on the international level in general and on the European level in particular to back efforts for a settlement to the Palestinian problem. Moreover, the trust that European leaders and others have in President Mubarak and the cordial and friendly ties that bind him to them also have a noticeable positive effect on the attitude of the continent's states toward Arab issues in general and the Palestinian peoblem in particular.

New Oil Field Discovered in Suez Gulf

JN2804095689 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Apr 89 p 1

[By Faruq 'Abd al-'Aziz]

[Text] A new oil reservoir has been discovered in the Gulf of Suez south of the Gharib 300 field [name as published]. High-quality crude oil was found for the first time in Al-Nubia (A) rocks [as published]. The thickness of the layer containing crude oil is 128 feet, and the reservoir is currently being divided to determine its definite reserves.

Chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, is following up the new discovery. He asked asked Dr Hamdi al-Banbi, chairman of the Petroleum Corporation, and Dr Shawqi 'Abidin, chairman of the Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company, which was behind the discovery, to speed up the development of the new field to assess it and place it on the production charts.

Preliminary investigation of the new field has revealed that the first well drilled is producing approximately 4,300 barrels per day. Drilling is currently under way for six more wells.

Work has begun on the project to develop the discovery of the Hilal off-shore fields in the southern part of the Gulf of Suez, where production now reaches 35,000 barrels per day. The new development, which is executed by the Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company, includes the assembly of two gas-pressuring units, which will be used to increase the pressure inside the off-shore wells to prolong their production life. The development will also include the introduction of equipment for the removal of water and impurities from the crude oil. Other equipment will be introduced to link these wells with on-shore treatment facilities to pump the oil to Ra's Shaqir and then to Suez through the main oil pipeline carrying crude oil from the Gulf of Suez.

Mauritania

'At Least 100' Killed in Nouakchott Violence

LD2704210489 Paris Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The confrontations between Senegalese and Mauritanians in Nouakchott in recent days were very violent. The latest toll issued this evening proves it. At least 100 people were killed.

Calm Reportedly Restored

LD2704220889 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Calm returned to Nouakchott and Nouadhibou today after the incidents of the past days. Calm was restored to the two cities and life returned to normal and everybody went back to their activities in total security and tranquility. This noble response reflects primarily our people's patience, their spirit of forgiveness and tolerance, and the suppression of anger despite the sufferings they swallowed as a result of the incidents of aggression and injustice to which our nationals in Senegal were subjected.

The second meaning of this response from the masses is our collective attachment to the supremacy of the law [indistinct words] and to prevent the chaos which some want to provoke by exploiting the present circumstances. This is not the first time that the peoples are living such misfortunes but this is also not the first time that the peoples will triumph over their misfortunes and will forget them forever.

Taya To Receive 'Common Defense' Official

LD2704220989 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] General Jean Gomez, the secretary general of the Organization of Common Defense and Nonaggression, arrived in Nouakchott this evening. In a statement to the national press, General Gomez said that this visit fell within the framework of his regular activities to contact His Excellency Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state and current chairman of the organization.

Gen Gomez was greeted on his arrival by Col Omar, secretary general of the Defense Ministry.

President Receives Maghreb Delegation Appeal

LD2704121789 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, this evening received a Maghreb delegation led by Maulay Driss Alaoui Mdaghri, Moroccan Foreign Ministry secretary of state responsible for Arab Maghreb affairs. The meeting was attended by Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and the Foreign Ministry. The Maghreb delegation includes the ambassadors of our country, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, and Senegal to the Kingdom of Morocco.

After the meeting, the Moroccan secretary of state made the following statement to the national press: We have come to Nouakchott and had the honor of being received by His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. During the meeting we conveyed His Majesty King Hassan II's call to put an end to the disturbances which have occurred in Mauritania and Senegal which should not [word indistinct] under the circumstances through which the region is passing, and which require us to [words indistinct] and to cooperate in [words indistinct] in all the countries of the region. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Defense Minister: Helicopter in Aswan Sudanese

EA2704122589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 27th April, SUNA—Defence Minister Major General (RTD) Mubarak 'Uthman Rahmah has said that the helicopter which landed yesterday in Aswan area (southern Egypt) was one of two helicopters granted to Sudan by Libya. He said that contacts are currently under way with the Egyptian officials to facilitate the return of the plane to Sudan.

Chadians With Habre Message 'Ignored' by Leaders

AB2704110389 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0730 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The police in Khartoum yesterday announced that several people involved in the coup attempt in Chad in the night of 1 April have asked for political asylum in Sudan. They include Idriss Deby, President Hissein Habre's former political and military adviser and (Moussa Deby), former secretary general of the highways department, who had taken refuge with some 100 men in Darfur, a Sudanese province.

Meanwhile, in connection with this issue, the head of the Chadian delegation, who was sent to Khartoum to discuss the fate of the coup plotters, has publicly complained about having been deliberately ignored. [Name indistinct], who arrived in Khartoum on 18 April, said he has not been able to meet Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Madhi to deliver a message from President Hissein Habre. He pointed out that the Sudanese Government's attitude may jeopardize relations between Khartoum and Ndjamena.

Leave Without Conveying Message

NC2704201989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1921 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Apr (MENA)—A Chadian delegation with a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre to Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi left here today for home without delivering Habre's message to Al-Mahdi.

Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Dumah, state minister at the Ministry of Local Government [name and title as received], who was assigned by Al-Mahdi to negotiate with the visiting Chadian delegation and receive the message, said the Chadian delegation declined to negotiate with him and affirmed that they had come to hand President Habre's message to Prime Minister al-Mahdi personally.

In another development, security sources in Khartoum stated that a study is under way to close the Sudanese-Chadian border, as part of the measures the Sudanese Government intends to take to maintain security in Darfur Province and prevent foreign infiltration.

According to reports from Sudan's western borders, approximately 800 Chadian gunmen, along with their full military gear and weapons, have entered Sudanese territory via the Chadian borders in the past 2 days. The same reports say that by the end of this week [as received], the number of gunmen who had fled Chad following the latest coup against the Chadian president had reached 15,000.

It should be recalled that the Sudanese authorities announced yesterday that a number of Chadian leaders who had entered Sudan across Chadian borders had asked for political asylum in Sudan.

Opposition 'Espionage Network' Members Arrested

NC2704192089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1827 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Apr (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities have arrested members of an espionage network carrying out subversive activities against Sudan's security and safety in the interests of the insurgents in the south. A high-ranking security source stated that the authorities are in full control of the network and that a secret investigation is being conducted with the members of the network who have been arrested.

Rebels Debate Plan To Recapture Bor, Waat Forces

EA2604212889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] The Waat debate: Very reliable sources in the General Headquarters [GHQ] have informed the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] High Command of a serious debate now going on among military planners in Khartoum. The debate revolves around what to do with Khartoum forces now in the garrison town of Waat. The debate has been dubbed by officers in the GHQ as the Waat debate. Patriotic officers in the GHQ, Khartoum, have asked Radio SPLA to inform and enlighten the Sudanese Army, especially the soldiers in Waat and the public at large, about the debate now raging in Khartoum, Malakal and Waat.

The background to the Waat debate: the GHQ, Khartoum, had organized a force from Malakal to go to Akobo to evacuate the Akobo garrison as their situation had become untenable, especially with the rains coming.

The force was code-named Wad al-Haq, the return of pride. The convoy Wad al-Haq accomplished its mission successfully and evacuated the Akobo garrison to Waat. The GHQ, Khartoum, had also organized another force, code-named Qabad al-Usud—Grip of the Lion. This force was to move from Malakal through Waat to Bor, to rescue and reinforce Bor garrison. While Qabad al-Usud was moving from Canal Sobat mouth to Waat, the Bor garrison to which they were going fell to the SPLA on 17th April 1989, and since then, Qabad al-Usud got stranded in Waat, its mission having been cancelled by the fall of Bor. As a result of this development, there are now four different forces or units in Waat. These are:

1. There is the Wad al-Haq convoy that had gone to evacuate the Akobo garrison.

2. There is the Akobo garrison itself that was evacuated by the Wad al-Haq.

3. There is the force that was in Waat originally and that is due for relief before the rains.

4. The fourth force is Qabad al-Usud that was supposed to rescue and reinforce the now defunct Bor garrison.

The Waat debate arose when the chief of staff, General Mahdi Babu Mimr and General Abu Qurun went against the advice of their staff and ordered the Qabad al-Usud to move across country from Waat to go and rescue Bor. Many officers at the GHQ think that this order is ill-advised, that the force is inadequately prepared, and that in effect the order amounts to a summary execution of the officers, NCO's, and men of Qabad al-Usud. These officers argued that Qabad al-Usud cannot begin fighting near Waat, fighting its way to near Bor, and finally recapture Bor. In their message, these officers have reached the conclusion that Gen Mahdi Babu Nimr's order is deliberate and intended to implement Al-Sadiq's plan to eliminate the regular Sudanese Army through fighting with the SPLA in order to replace it with a sectarian party army by 1992. The officers asked Radio SPLA to expose this plot and to make those in Waat aware of it. This is, in summary, the so-called Waat debate now going on in GHQ Khartoum, Malakal, and Waat.

On its part, the SPLA has refrained from attacking the Waat force, waiting for resolution of the Waat debate. The SPLA has made only limited shelling of Waat, using light artillery, to indicate to the soldiers in Waat that we are around. But should they make the wrong move to advance, we know exactly where and when to destroy this force. Should they return to Malakal, SPLA forces on the way have been ordered not to attack them but to let them go in peace. We have made such gestures to other garrisons before.

As a contribution to the Waat debate, the military correspondent of Radio SPLA said that the officers that are opposed to the order to commit Qabad al-Usud to recapture Bor are obviously right and for the following reasons: One, in military appreciation and planning, the most important overriding consideration is the mission given to a unit. All military plans and preparations are based on the mission. The mission itself, which comes from the higher GHQ, must take into account all the relevant factors, including the enemy, the terrain, the weather, and own forces.

In the present Waat debate, the vital concern is, what is the mission of Qabad al-Usud? The answer is that the mission of Qabad al-Usud was to move across country from Waat to Bor in order to rescue and reinforce Bor garrison. All the planning, preparation, and resources provided to the Qabad al-Usud were thus based on this mission, to rescue and reinforce Bor garrison. But then, Bor garrison fell.

The military situation is now totally different, as Qabad al-Usud no longer has a friendly force in Bor. Now Qabad al-Usud is being given a new mission. The new mission is to move across country from Waat to Bor and to recapture Bor. This mission is simply untenable. Qabad al-Usud was not organized and equipped to recapture Bor. It was organized and equipped to rescue and reinforce Bor. The force is simply inadequate for the new mission.

A second major factor that argues against using Qabad al-Usud to recapture Bor is the weather. Khartoum does not know, but the force in Waat and the SPLA near them know that it is already raining heavily between Waat and Bor. And it is impossible for Austin, Fiat and similar lorries to move cross country at this time and especially duirng this year of floods and heavy rains.

Moving tanks and heavy artillery is simply out of the question. The SPLA tried to move tanks and heavy artillery to Waat and was unable. And as a result, we are using only light artillery against Waat, as those of Waat themselves know from our token shelling.

A third major factor that argues against the use of Qabad al-Usud to recapture Bor is the size and type of the enemy they expect to encounter. It is common knowledge that the SPLA recently cleared the whole of east bank, capturing the major Army garrisons of Torit, Farajok, Nimule Mongalia, Jummayzah, and Bor. Anyone making a correct military appreciation can easily assess the size and armament of the SPLA force that captured these garrisons. This force is available and its armament has been reinforced by the tanks and artilleries captured in these garrisons.

It is, therefore, absurd to think that Qabad al-Usud can just make a picnic walk to move from Waat and to go and recapture Bor. The reality is that, if GQH wants to recapture Bor, military logic dictates that it must plan it out anew and make the necessary preparations according to the new military situation. Improvisation, such as trying to reinforce Qabad al-Usud, to move across country to recapture Bor is intentional, malicious, and aims at sacrificing this force for reasons known to Khartoum, that is, to get rid of them and make room for Al-Sadiq's sectarian party Army that is currently being trained abroad.

Islamic Leader Details Opposition to Peace Pact

PM2704142989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Apr 89 p 3

[Kamal Hamid Report: "Sudanese Islamic Front Leader Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Opposed Peace Agreement Because It Means Capitulation and We Will Continue Our Campaign To Oust Government"]

[Text] Jeddah, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Reactions have varied in Sudan over the interview given to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT last Friday by Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani. Reactions were limited to [National] Islamic Front [NIF] circles after some Sudanese papers published the interview or some extracts from it.

Yasin 'Umar al-Imam, a prominent NIF leader, refused to respond to Al-Mirghani's accusations against the NIF. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said: The NIF represents the contemporary tendency of the Islamic movement and comprises most of the groups and forces demanding arbitration of the shari'a. Al-Mirghani is wrong in accusing us of political one-upmanship over the shari'a issue. This is because we do not haggle over something that is the foundation of our orientation, with which we join and oppose governments, and for the sake of which we were put in prison and some of us were martyred. It is the traditional parties which are haggling over Islam, since they include it in their electoral slogans, but when they assume power they do not move a single step toward Islam. Whereas the Islamic movement has always made the shari'a issue a reality through its participation in power.

The NIF leader admitted their rejection of the peace initiative signed by Al-Mirghani and Garang last November. But he added: That rejection is not because of hostility to peace, as Al-Mirghani told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, but because that agreement is for capitulation, not peace because it contains the rebel movement's conditions, namely, rejection of the Islamic shari'a, both at present and in the future. One of its clauses stipulates the obligation that no Islamic legislation be made.

Furthermore, the agreement abrogates all Sudan's defense agreements with the Arab family, in a bid to apply the policy of colonialism and communism being implemented by John Garang with a view to preventing Islam's and Arabism's extension to the continent. But Al-Mirghani did not ask Garang to abolish his military and armament agreements with Israel, the United States, and Cuba. Al-Mirghani knows that 20,000 rebels are currently being trained in Cuba.

Yasin 'Umar al-Imam pointed out that "we rejected the agreement because it refuses to recognize Arab, Muslim Sudan. And that was mentioned in all the Garang movement's slogans. Besides, the government and its parties talk of peace while the Garang movement talks about preparedness for autumn battles and of threats to occupy Juba, Malakal, and Waw. The government sent its delegation, which included a general and a university professor, but it was only received by a lieutenant and a fugitive university student. And despite that, some, especially the leftists inside and outside Sudan, emerged to propagate peace."

The NIF Executive Committee member refuted Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani's claim that the front worked to isolate Sudan. He wondered: Does the isolation come from the quarter demanding the nonabolition of the friendship agreements with the Arab family, or does it come from those who signed an agreement to that effect? He added: The front is the only political party to have prepared a paper on Sudan's foreign policy.

It is the only party to have prepared a paper on a solution to the problem in the south under the title "Sudan's Charter," which was accepted by everyone, northerners and southerners. It is the only party to have held organizational conferences throughout Sudan, including the south, which were attended by some Christian brothers. The front is the only political party to have given its Muslim members from south Sudan the opportunity to occupy ministerial posts.

The NIF leader confirmed what Al-Mirghani mentioned, namely, that the Front is working to oust the government. He said: Indeed we are actually working for that through democratic means, but we will attack no one unless we are attacked.

Bahrain

Establishment of Relations With Panama Slated

JN2704114389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Manama, 27 Apr (WAKH)—It was announced here today that the State of Bahrain and the Republic of Panama have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level as of today.

A Bahraini Foreign Ministry statement said today the decision stems from joint desire to bolster bonds of friendship and cooperation between Bahrain and Panama and the inspiration of the principles of the UN Charter.

Kuwait

Afghan Embassy Denies Killing of Kuwaiti

LD2704131889 Kuwati KUNA in English 1200 GMT 27 apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 27 (KUNA)—The Embassy of Afghanistan in Kuwait Thursday denied a recent report by REUTERS news agency that a Kuwaiti national had been killed in the Afghan civil war and another Kuwaiti would be proscecuted.

An official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry told KUNA that it has been told by the Afghan Embassy that neither of the two are Kuwaitis.

Paper Calls 'Awn 'Real President' of Lebanon

JN2704160089 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 26 Apr 89 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "'Awn's Strength"]

[Text] People who underevaluate the real power and strength of the head of the military government in Lebanon Michel 'Awn, are totally mistaken.

'Awn is the real president that the Lebanese people want as he has proved that he is the king of all the Lebanese people by following no sectarian policies.

Furthermore, he is not an individual who will deal with the devil for extricating his country from its crisis.

Till now, 'Awn has proved that he is capable of resisting his opponents. Continuing to be in power during this crucial period is indeed ample evidence of this fact. For this to have been achieved, he must have had the staunch support of the Lebanese people—whether this be overt or covert.

The majority of the Lebanese people who support 'Awn are bearing most of the destruction during the current war raging in Beirut. It is said that there are some in the opposition that are providing covert support.

As an analogy, the United States suffered from this very dilemma in Vietnam—they never knew who of the Vietnamese supported them and who did not. The majority of the Vietnamese wanted the Americans to withdraw.

In the case of the Lebanese, all want their country independent. They may be "masking" some of their wishes and sympathies, but it all goes in 'Awn's support. 'Awn desires that be Lebanon [as published] free and independent and the Lebanese can by themselves achieve harmony among their various sects.

Suffice it to say that 'Awn has never shown any favour to his own sect, he has never dealt with Israel, he is not a racist—he is a true Lebanese. All he wants is that Lebanon be free. This is perhaps the secret of his strength that his opponents must see before they fight him.

Like the Americans learnt in Vietnam, others will learn that it is a foolish policy to fight those without ascertaining who is in favour and who is against.

PDRY

Talks With Soviet Justice Ministry Begin 26 Apr

EA2704070889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Official talks began here today between the Soviet Ministry of Justice and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] Ministry of Justice and Religious Endowment.

The talks were chaired on the Yemeni side by brother 'Abd al-Wasi Salim, minister of justice and religious endowment, and on the Soviet side by Comrade Boris Vasilyevich Kravtsov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet minister of justice. [passage omitted]

The talks will also touch on the role being played by legislation and the judiciary in the process of restructuring in the USSR and [word indistinct] benefiting from this role in the process of the comprehensive political and economic [word indistinct] for which preparations are being made today in our country.

Comrade Kravtsov expressed his pleasure at visiting Democratic Yemen to acquaint himself with the pioneer experiment being led by the Yemeni Socialist Party in Democratic Yemen.

He stressed the eagerness of the Soviet Ministry of Justice to develop relations with the PDRY Ministry of Justice and [word indistinct] to exchange experiences in the field of legislation and the judiciary so as to strengthen the democratic nationalist regime in our country. [passage omitted]

Boris Kravtsov and [name indistinct] the Estonian justice minister [as heard], arrived this morning on a visit of several days to our country.

Qatar

Minister of State Returns From Tunis Meeting

JN2804085889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 28 Apr (WAKH)—Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Doha in the early morning after he headed the Qatari delegation to the Arab League Council's emergency meeting, which was concluded in Tunis yesterday.

He was received by a number of senior officials from the Qatari Foreign Ministry.

United Arab Emirates

'Abdallah, PLO's 'Abbas Arrive From Tunis

JN2804124789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Apr (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of state for foreign affairs and the accompanying delegation, today returned to Abu Dhabi after he took part in the Arab League Council's emergency meeting, which was concluded yesterday in the Tunisian capital.

The Arab League Council issued a resolution calling for a cease-fire in Lebanon to take effect from noon today.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, arrived on the same plane on a visit to the UAE, during which he will convey a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The message deals with developments in the Palestine question.

PDRY Education Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

EA2504163189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Text] Brother Salim Ba Salim, minister of education and special envoy of the chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday evening carrying a message from Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Politburo member and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to his brother, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], concerning relations between the two sisterly countries and issues of common interest.

Egyptians Say Plane 'Mistakenly' Shot Down
NC2304090389 Paris AFP in English 0838 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, April 28 (AFP)—An Iraqi soldier mistakenly shot down an Egyptian fighter bomber as it came in to land here earlier this week to take part in an air show, Egyptian diplomats said here Friday.

The pilot managed to eject to safety after radioing that the Alpha Jet had been hit and was out of control, the diplomat said. There were no reports of casualties on the ground.

The soldier hit the warplane with a shoulder-launched surface-to-air missile used by the Iraqis to bring down low-flying enemy aircraft.

The Egyptians had been invited to the Baghdad air show which opened here Friday to demonstrate the Alpha Jet, a plane developed by France and West Germany and assembled by the Egyptians in a plant south of Cairo.

Several nations, including France, Britain and the Soviet Union are participating in the air show, amid reports that Iraq is negotiating the purchase of Mirage 2000-type planes from Paris or Moscow.

Minister Denies Missile Industry Cooperation
JN2704211289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 April (INA)—Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, has denied that Iraq cooperated with any Arab or foreign country in the field of missile industries. Speaking at a news conference here today, Husayn Kamil said that Iraq is self-reliant in producing missiles. He added that Iraq continued its own efforts to produce and develop a new generation of long-range missiles.

Husayn Kamil said that Iraq has offered much of its military products as gifts to its Arab brothers and that they are now used in their armies. He added that nothing prevents any Arab country from purchasing Iraqi weapons since this action would enhance the march of integration and Arab solidarity.

The Iraqi industry and military industrialization minister said: We intend to set up a project for the warplanes industry and contacts are underway with France and the USSR in this respect.

He added: We have received positive signs from the two sides to implement the project.

Husayn Kamil added that Iraq has modernized the Soviet Ilyushin aircraft by making it an early warning aircraft after providing it with certain equipment, systems, and Iraqi requirements. The plane has become more developed and advanced in terms of efficiency than the British Nimrod aircraft.

He said that this aircraft is different from similar planes in the world because it is designed and produced in Iraq. The Iraqi minister affirmed that work continued to produce a new advanced generation in this respect.

The Iraqi minister added that several advanced weapons will be displayed in the Iraqi pavilion such as the self-propelled 155-mm gun, which is three times more efficient than its Austrian and Spanish counterparts. He added that the new Iraqi gun, the self-propelled 210-mm gun, is an advanced gun that is unique in the world in terms of its size, range, and barrel capacity. He noted that work continued to produce the seven-barreled 30-gun and another 57-gun to be used in the air defense.

Answering a question on the participation of the United States, the Iraqi minister said that the U.S. State Department prohibited military equipment and weapons producing companies from taking part in the fair with the exception of a civilian aircraft, Gulf Stream, and jeeps from General Motors. He affirmed that Iraq is not annoyed by this stand as the matter concerns the United States.

The Iraqi minister said he will soon announce the details of establishing a project for producing sedan cars and trucks. He said that many factories have been liberated and the opportunity has been given to civil industries to take part in military industry.

He affirmed that Iraq's objective of organizing the military industry fair is peace and to give an idea of the development reached in Iraq in the field of military industry.

He said: We do not develop, design, and produce weapons to create more wars. Our objective is to establish peace and give a message to others that Iraq has manpower, as well as material and military capability that qualify it to defend its sovereignty and security.

'Aziz Returns From Tunis Meetings 27 Apr
JN2804062889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, last night returned to Baghdad from Tunis after he chaired the Arab League Council's emergency meeting to discuss the Lebanese crisis.

Rabin Discusses Elections in Territories

TA2704180089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yitzhaq Golan; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Good evening.

[Rabin] Good evening to you and to our listeners.

[Golan] Yitzhaq Rabin, Husayn blamed Israel for encouraging the demonstrations in Jordan and for transferring the intifadah [uprising] from Judaea and Samaria to his kingdom. What is your reaction?

[Rabin] If these remarks were made by him, it is absurd and almost ridiculous. First, what happened in Jordan is not at all similar to the uprising in the territories. In Jordan, it is an issue within the same nation concerning economic and social problems. It is not a political issue between two nations. There is, therefore, no similarity. There is certainly no basis for that statement, if he did say it.

[Golan] In that case we will move on to an issue closer to home, which is the increasing voices by leaders in Judaea and Samaria rejecting the Israeli proposal for elections in the territories. Do you still believe that the elections will take place?

[Rabin] The political move of which the elections are part—and it is a grave mistake to attempt to view the elections as a move unconnected to any other development—will lead to a permanent solution via an interim period. This period would begin with elections among the inhabitants of the territories, by the inhabitants, for representatives with whom negotiations can be conducted. I believe that a political move beginning with elections is the only way to move from a situation of stalemate—the status quo—towards a permanent solution of the problems in order to reach peace on our eastern border.

I believe that this move has a chance, despite the voices heard against it today. This chance is on the condition that first the Israeli Government reach a decision on the basis of those principles which, as far as I know, the prime minister presented in Washington. The elections are merely part of this political move. On the other hand, we will make it clear to the Palestinians in the territories, to the Arab world, and the international political arena that this is the only possible direction. If we take other directions we will have to use tougher measures against violence.

[Golan] But why should they agree if even before the interim stage, not to mention the final phase, they do not know what type of elections there will be: Who will have the right to vote, who will not have a right to vote, who will supervise the elections, will people from abroad be permitted to supervise the elections in the territories?

[Rabin] All those points can be clarified. We must first make decisions ourselves within the framework of the Cabinet. I very much hope and believe—in fact, I am convinced—that we have to do it. We have to present something more complete, something that we can present to the Palestinians in the territories, and first and foremost something we can present to the United States so that it can help us with its contacts with those elements in the Arab world with which we cannot have a dialogue. That is primarily the Arab countries, excluding Egypt, who we can speak to on our own. But we must come forward with something much more crystallized and complete that includes all the components you referred to on the elections.

[Golan] Did you think about those details when you brought up the proposal?

[Rabin] It was clear to me what we were discussing and how to go about reaching it. I have documents on that, but at the moment I do not see any point in detailing them. I believe that first we must reach an understanding between the various elements in the government so that a plan can be presented for the government's decision, either in the Inner Cabinet or the Cabinet, according to the prime minister's decision. We must come forward with Israeli positions that are much more detailed and complete. I am sure that this will be done.

[Golan] You are aware, however, that the side that is to participate in the elections claims that they are merely a gimmick and that we are biding our time.

[Rabin] I believe that central elements in the Israeli Government really want to advance the peace process, but they understand—I am talking about myself—that anybody who tries to reach a permanent solution in one step, in the present reality, will destroy the move. On the face of it, it seems logical: Why not decide today what will be the character of the permanent solution. When referring to a permanent solution on the eastern front, I do not know of a single Arab element that would agree at present to anything less than an Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders; the division of Jerusalem according to the lines existing before the Six Day War; and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

I am opposed to all that. Therefore, instead of making such an attempt now, when it is impossible and would bring about a break-up—or total stalemate leading to a break-up—let us make progress on a significant stage. Let us progress on an interim arrangement for an interim period, limited in time by definite dates on when it begins, with whom it begins, and on what basis, in order to get things moving from stalemate and violence to discussions and negotiations around the negotiating table.

[Golan] But when that election proposal is accompanied by declarations by the prime minister that we will remain firm in rejecting the PLO and rejecting the Palestinians' right of self-determination, why should they agree to elections?

[Rabin] Look, this is the same thing as the fact that nobody at present prevents the PLO from declaring that its aim is a Palestinian state, or the fact that as defense minister I do not arrest Palestinians in the territories who get up and say: I want a Palestinian state. Not a single person has been arrested for his political views during my term as defense minister.

[Golan] But you did not answer my question. You are at least saying elections and territories in return for peace. The prime minister says: No territories.

[Rabin] First, the Israeli Government, as a government, has not decided on territories in return for peace, but it also has not decided on Greater Israel. The unity government exists and will continue to exist until we reach negotiations on the permanent solution. The significant gap between the Likud and the Alignment is on their approach to the character of the State of Israel and the chances for reaching peace.

The Alignment presents as its central goal, alongside peace, the existence of a democratic Jewish state. I have supported the Allon Plan of 1968 for the past 21 years, and not just the past 18 months. The central ideal is to maintain the State of Israel as a secure democratic Jewish state. This means: No annexation of the territories, because this would lead to, not annexation of territories, but of 1.5 million Palestinians. I do not want a binational state in Israel. This is my own wish, and not something I believe because somebody is pressuring me. At the same time, the Likud concept is one of Greater Israel.

That is why I was one of the Labor Party people who acted and aspired toward a unity government. I knew that we could not reach agreement between the Likud and the Alignment on the character of the permanent solution. At the same time, however, with a Likud-Alignment partnership the peace process can begin via an interim period, with the character of the permanent solution and its borders being left undecided at this stage. It is to be left for the Arab world, the inhabitants of the territories, other elements, and certainly Israel to decide. When a decision is made it will be based on the experience of the interim period.

[Golan] But Ministers Sharon, Moda'i, and Levi, as well as the Tehiya, Moledet, and Tzomet, view the very existence of the elections as the first and decisive stage toward the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Rabin] First, on elections for the self-governing authority of the Palestinians over their affairs: Israel is committed to the Camp David accords—the peace framework—which is an international agreement approved by the government and ratified by the Knesset. So why did they just wake up, where were they in 1978? It is true that there has been a change. According to the Camp David accords we should have first reached an agreement with Egypt on setting up the autonomy as an interim arrangement for an interim period. Even then it was clear that it was an interim period. The talks failed in 1982. Egypt dropped out.

In July 1988, Jordan stopped being a leading factor with which we could enter a dialogue. Israel, and anybody who has Israel's interests at heart, therefore, has no choice. The Israeli Government cannot advance the peace process without a Palestinian partner. There are only two alternatives when speaking about a Palestinian partner. There is the PLO, which according to the government's basic guidelines, my party's platform, and my personal opinion cannot be viewed as a partner to a dialogue. So what is left? To create a representation among the residents of the territories with whom we can negotiate. They will be the element which will become the self-governing authority in the interim arrangement for an interim period, and they will also be the central partner—it was also defined this way in the Camp David accords—to negotiate with us on the permanent solution. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Judging by recent developments, can we deduce that the positions of the prime minister have become more moderate? On one hand he sticks to the Camp David agreements, but on the other he is now willing to proceed with elections even before the talks on the framework, whereas under the Camp David agreements the process is in the opposite direction.

[Rabin] I do not think I can speak for the prime minister. I think that the proposals he raised in the United States, as I know them—without going into details—are a recognition of the fact that we must find a partner from among the inhabitants of the territories; that the method of finding the partners is by means of some kind of elections; and that we will then be able to enter negotiations with the representatives who will be elected. This is simply being realistic. Egypt does not serve this purpose, neither does Jordan. Therefore, whoever is really interested in a political process must find a partner, a Palestinian partner, because the others have withdrawn from leading the process. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Do you not think there has been a great, even extreme change in the position of the United States and West European countries in the sense that we are still fixated on our no's, whereas they discovered there is someone to talk with on the other side, the PLO? I want to hear from you why we are stubbornly rejecting partners. You are saying that the inhabitants of the territories do not recognize the PLO as their sole representative, whereas they are claiming it is...

[Rabin, interrupting] I did not say this. On the contrary, I said that they cannot dissociate themselves from the PLO. At the same time, I perceive among them nuances and trends differing from the PLO in Tunis, at least in terms of starting a movement away from the political stalemate and the status quo, toward a permanent settlement at a later stage.

I believe we should examine the statements emanating from the United States. Bush's statements have been noted, but only partially and with unpleasant phrasing. The phrase, an end to the occupation, can also be interpreted as a desire for a political settlement, for changing the present situation, which has existed for over 21 years—since the Six Day War—in which we have had military rule. According to our definition, the territories are being held by us, but in terms of international law they are occupied territories, and this is the U.S. attitude toward the status of the territories.

Bush also said that the United States will not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and that we must proceed in two stages. In his basic positions, he is actually in full agreement with our positions against an immediate attempt to pass from the present situation to peace in one fell swoop, rather than by going through an interim period and an interim arrangement. He also said that the U.S. does not support the establishment of a Palestinian state. They are against determining today what will be the final target of the political process. Therefore, along with phrases that can be interpreted in various ways—I, and probably every other Israeli, would have phrased it differently—let us view these statements in the right proportion to what he said, which is identical to the Israeli position.

You will not, however, hear the same from the Europeans. Have you heard from any European politician, or the EEC, any statement which does not support a Palestinian state, or speaks of the need to pass through an interim period and an interim arrangement? I have not heard this.

[Golan] Do you not have the feeling that for the last 21 or 22 years we have been dragged behind the initiatives of others, rather than making initiatives ourselves?

[Rabin] Not necessarily. I think that immediately after the Yom Kippur War we started a process of peace in stages with Egypt. When I was prime minister, I gave first priority to removing Egypt from the cycle of war and fortunately we made peace with Egypt. Let us not forget that from the War of Independence until the Yom Kippur War there was no war between us and the Arab world in which Egypt did not play a leading role. Since 1973, we have initiated all the wars; it has been almost 16 years since the Arab world initiated a war against us. I think this mostly has to do with the achievement of removing Egypt from the cycle of war and making peace with it.

I think steps were taken that may have resulted in negotiations with Jordan. At this stage, the Jordanian option has been missed and does not exist. We have today a new situation that did not exist before 9 December 1987.

I have been defense minister for more than 4 and ½ years. During the first half year, I was mainly busy with getting 15,000 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers out of the Lebanese quagmire. Since then, however, I have met hundreds of inhabitants from the territories and have raised this basic question to them: Why should you not be our partners for solving the Palestinian-Israeli problem, or at least for starting a movement toward a solution? At the time, some of them just laughed, some winked, and others dared to speak out and ask me outright: Do you want the PLO to kill me? Today, after the beginning of the uprising, the situation has changed. What was then inconceivable is now possible. Not by means of declaring their dissociation from the PLO, but rather by their searching for an orange light [as heard]. You know in 1976, when the municipal elections were held, the PLO initially opposed them, but despite this the inhabitants of the territories participated. The PLO never gave its consent.

I sincerely hope that such a development will take place. Perhaps not in a month's time, but in 6 months or 9 months time when we prove that, as an Israeli Government, we have a more consolidated plan. A plan that deals not just with elections disconnected from the essence of the interim arrangement, from the interlock [last word in English] and its connection to a timetable for the negotiations on a final settlement, but also with determining who will be the partners for negotiations on the final solution and on what basis.

This plan will not be based, however, on answers that the present Israeli Government cannot give. An Israeli Government cannot speak in favor of Greater Israel, or in favor of territorial compromise. Whoever says this today—whether myself, or any minister in the government, or the prime minister—is speaking for only himself and not the government. As a government, there is no decision in favor of Greater Israel or territorial compromise. This is actually the basis for the existence of the government. Whoever tries to induce the government to embrace territorial compromise or support Greater Israel will put an end to this government. I will not remain in a government that embraces the target of Greater Israel, and I will understand the Likud people if they do not remain in a government that supports territorial compromise.

[Golan] What do you think can bring about the disbanding of the national unity government?

[Rabin] At this stage I prefer to talk in positive terms. At present I am calmer, because I believe this government can decide in favor of those things I defined previously: How to advance from the present situation via an interim period constituted of an interim arrangement giving the Palestinians in the territories—by means of elections of candidates from them and by them—the management of their affairs, with the exception of security and foreign affairs and the safeguarding of the Israeli settlements. This interim arrangement also states a timetable toward a permanent solution, as well as the participants in, and basis for the final solution.

[Golan] We got out of the Lebanese quagmire, and now we are in the midst of the intifadah [uprising] quagmire. If they refuse the idea of elections, what is your scenario?

[Rabin] I have always believed that there cannot be an Israeli policy based only on repression. I believe the policy must be comprehensive. If there is a comprehensive proposal by the government—as I described before—and we speak with the Americans, the Palestinians, and the Egyptians, and despite all of this the intifadah continues, then I believe that we should use more severe measures against the violence in the territories.

This is a way of telling them that if they have any illusions that they will achieve more by continuing the intifadah, or by 'Arafat's blabbering in Paris or anywhere else, they better forget it. I believe that by this parallel policy—presenting a reasonable plan not just of elections, but rather a comprehensive plan for advancing us toward a permanent solution, while, on the other hand, acting more sharply to repress the violence if this proposal is rejected—I believe that in the next 6-12 months the various elements in the Arab world, mainly in the territories, will be brought to embrace the political path. [passage omitted]

Arens: Palestinians' Rejection Not 'Final Word'

TA2804095389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Apr 89 p 2

[Report on an interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Ilan Kfir on 27 April; place not given]

[Excerpt] "There is a terror campaign being conducted in the territories aimed at deterring the population from a political arrangement with Israel, and it is very possible that terrorist threats influenced the decision of the Palestinian leaders in the territories to publish their announcement against the elections," Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday in an interview with HADASHOT.

Arens was reacting to yesterday's reports that the Palestinian leaders in the territories reject the prime minister's plan for elections in the territories. "The declaration should not be viewed as their final word. We do not know whether they published it of their own free will. We plan to expend efforts to convince them to reconsider and agree to the democratic process we are offering them: free elections to choose those who will represent them in negotiations on interim arrangements and autonomy."

"They must be convinced that the direction we are offering is correct and the best there is. We must remember that this population does not have a tradition of democratic processes. They might prefer representatives appointed through negotiations rather than free elections." Arens hopes to convince the residents of the territories to agree to elections. "We must remember that in this region there are countries that do not get excited over the democratic election process and fear precedents set in the territories."

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 28 April in a report by Dani Sadc, Hayim Broida, and Orli Azulay-Katz on pages 1 and 6 adds that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, referring to the Palestinian leaders' statement, said yesterday in Jerusalem's Sacker Park: "I believe that this is not their final word and that we will still be hearing other views. I very much hope that this initiative will not be rejected and will enable us to make progress toward solving the conflict. I am certain that the Arab public figures can and should accept my plan as it has been presented."]

Finance Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that the prime minister's election proposal is at present the best start. He believes that the declaration by the 80 Palestinian leaders is not final. Peres said that we are currently in the stage of sending out feelers and none of the sides are now taking final positions. "We should also make clear what sort of elections we want. We must remember that the elections in the territories will not produce delegates to the Zionist Congress." [passage omitted]

Gur Discusses Labor Backing for Shamir Plan

TA2804090589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Minister Without Portfolio Mordekhay Gur by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Shim'on Peres has said that we must wait and see how the Arab side will react to the prime minister's plan. At yesterday's Alignment ministers meeting, it was said that even if Shamir is only trying to gain time, the Americans should still be allowed to examine the plan. We would like to have a few words on this issue with Labor Party Minister Mordekhay Gur. Good morning, Minister Gur.

[Gur] Good morning.

[Friedman] Last night's decision was made 24 hours after 83 Palestinian notables in the territories published a statement categorically rejecting Shamir's initiative. Does the Alignment also believe that the plan stands a chance, despite everything?

[Gur] First of all, we should not forget that this initiative originated with the Alignment. We proposed elections in the territories as far back as during the Knesset election campaign. The same was later proposed by the defense minister. We are convinced that the right way to reach coexistence with our neighbors is by allowing them to hold elections. Even if they encounter internal difficulties and even if some of them are temporarily terrorized into rejecting the idea, we have no doubt that free elections are the right way for them to choose delegates for negotiations with us. This is why we believe in the plan.

[Friedman] But they have said no to this initiative. How, then, can they be made to adopt it?

[Gur] I would like to remind you that after saying no to the State of Israel for 42 years, last December the PLO leadership finally made a significant move, albeit a partial one. This process should be allowed to continue until all our past and present enemies realize that the only path to coexistence with us lies through negotiations. I believe that if we adhere to a policy that is at the same time both flexible and inexorable—the latter with regard to Israel's security and the former as far as the political process is concerned—a majority of the residents of the territories will be persuaded that what we propose is both vital and worthwhile for them.

[Dan] What does the Alignment mean by saying we must wait? Shim'on Peres says that you will wait for the Arab reaction, but 80 central figures from the territories have said: Okay, we heard you; so what. Whose reaction is he waiting for, the PLO's?

[Gur] Allow me not to relate to the personal aspect. I will tell you what we decided. First of all, we decided to continue this move, which we initiated. We will continue exerting pressure inside the Cabinet to advance and accelerate it as much as possible, both through Cabinet debates and in contacts with the Americans in which we can be instrumental, unlike contacts with Jordan. When we say we will accelerate the process, we mean that we intend to push it ahead from every possible direction, while remaining in the government, in order to persuade as many elements as possible that Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian cooperation is the way toward a solution. PLO leaders and supporters must realize that after 42 years in which we have not succumbed to terror and violence, there is no chance we will give in to unilateral conditions, including the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, simply because the world is exerting various forms of pressure on us. We will not agree to this. We do not accept such conditions as absolute, and we will fight for our way.

[Friedman] You said earlier that you intend to adopt an inexorable policy. Can you address yesterday's remarks by the defense minister, in which he said that if this proposal is rejected, we will have to take more stringent action against violence in the territories? Do you support this statement?

[Gur] I cannot refer to it because I did not hear it. I have had enough meetings with the defense minister to know that most of us believe that to end the intifadah [uprising] and, more importantly, to achieve coexistence, we must adopt a strategy that will make it clear to the intifadah leaders that violence will not change our political positions. This is the inexorable aspect.

On the other hand, we all realize that the conflict will not end without political negotiations. This is our past and present political position. Yesterday we agreed that the issue will be debated in party forums. We understand that we are marching toward a permanent solution agreeable to us, which is part of the Alignment platform. We intend to act on this principle and strive toward that end while remaining in the government. We did not join the government in order to embrace the Likud positions, but rather to try to influence them with our positions. A constant struggle against violence coupled with political flexibility is our way.

[Dan] Thank you, Minister Gur.

[Gur] Thank you.

Majority Supports 'Tougher' Steps on 'Uprising'

TA2804113989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 89 p A1

[Text] Over half the population supports the use of tougher military force in the territories and believes that the intifadah [uprising] can be suppressed with force, according to a national public opinion poll conducted last week by the Pori Institute at the request of HA'ARETZ.

To the question "Do you support or oppose the use of tougher military force to quell the uprising in the territories?" 54.6 percent replied positively, compared with 36.6 percent who responded in the negative. The remaining 8.8 percent had no opinion.

To the question "Do you think that the intifadah in the territories can or cannot be suppressed by military force?" 53 percent said it can, while 38.1 percent believe it cannot be suppressed by military force. Some 8.9 percent had no opinion.

The survey encompassed a representative sample of 1,200 men and women from the age of 18 among the Jewish population in various parts of the country, who were interviewed personally.

USSR, Arabs Reportedly Agree on Election Stand

TA2804112889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 89 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] An agreement has been reached in recent days between the PLO, Jordan, Egypt, and the USSR on support for elections in the territories on condition that assurances are given that they will be part of a political process and not a plan aimed at reducing international pressure on Israel and quieting down the situation in the territories, which in their view was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's intention, reliable political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

The sources said that the four elements agreed to support the elections only if assurances are given that they will be held under the supervision of foreign observers and adequate guarantees are provided that they will be the start of an overall process that will bring about the end of the Israeli occupation. If these conditions are met, they will agree to elections taking place while the territories are still under Israeli rule.

This position is being presented by Arab elements and the Soviets. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will present it to his American counterpart James Baker when they confer next month. In preparation for the meeting, the Soviets are intensifying their activities in the region. Three senior Soviet officials are currently conferring with PLO leaders and the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, and Syria. Vladimir Polykov, the head of the Middle East Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, is in Tunis; spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov held talks in Jordan and is leaving for Egypt; and Gennadiy Garasov, the adviser on the Middle East conflict, will arrive in Cairo after talks in Amman.

The Soviets are using their influence on Syria and leftist elements in the PLO to extend their support to 'Arafat's policy. [passage omitted]

Nusaybah Calls for 'Statement of Intention'

TA2704162589 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Interview in English with Sari Nusaybah, Bi'r Zayt University professor, by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Mr Nusaybah.

[Nusaybah] Good evening to you.

[Shilon] Why are you rejecting the Shamir election plan?

[Nusaybah] We think that Mr Shamir is trying to divert attention from the main issue. We believe that the main issue is to get the two sides to negotiate. We should focus on negotiations rather than on elections.

[Shilon] But why are you rejecting elections that will enable to negotiate between official representatives of the Palestinians with Israeli official representatives?

[Nusaybah] I think you made a slip of the tongue there. I think the official representatives of the Palestinian people do not require elections. We already have our official representative, which is the PLO.

[Shilon] Who elected them?

[Nusaybah] They have been in charge of our national struggle for the last 30 to 40 years. If it were possible for Israel to terminate its occupation for us to have elections in a properly free and democratic way and condition, then again there is no question about the fact that the PLO would be elected.

[Shilon] But what you are doing right now, you are putting a precondition situation to the negotiations, to the planned negotiations, or to the elections. You want Israel to withdraw from the territories before even starting talking.

[Nusaybah] Well, the thing is the following: The basic problem of the Palestinian people is that we want to have the occupation terminated. That is the main issue. Now, Israel has not said so far that it is willing to terminate its occupation of 1.5 or 1.7 million Palestinian people.

[Shilon translates and continues] Mr Nusaybah, this situation brings us to a nonstarter negotiation, in fact.

[Nusaybah] Well, what we are seeking through the uprising and in general is to have peace in this region, and peace cannot be achieved except if the Palestinian rights are addressed and the Palestinian people are addressed. Now, we have an interlocutor, we have a representative that can be addressed. What we are saying is that instead of focusing on a side issue such as elections, what everybody should focus on—including the United States and everybody concerned with peace—is the issue of negotiations.

Once we sit down at the negotiating table—both Israel and the PLO—then everything and anything can be discussed. What we want is to address the real issue, which is the fact that we are under occupation, the fact that we seek to be free, and the fact that we want to live in dignity. Now, this is not very much to ask.

[Shilon] But you will be able to do it after the elections.

[Nusaybah] The elections are, as I say again, a side issue. What we wish, what we seek, is to have the occupation terminated, which cannot take place unless and until we have negotiations, which is what we should focus upon: to have negotiations going on between the PLO and Israel in the context of an international conference. At the negotiating table everything can be discussed, including elections, but elections cannot by any means be a substitute for terminating occupation.

[Shilon translates and continues] If this is the situation, so where are we going from here?

[Nusaybah] Well, I have hoped that we will go step-by-step towards making it possible for the two sides to negotiate. We must impress on every side, on the Israeli Government and on everybody concerned, the urgency of having to have negotiations take place between the representatives of the two sides.

[Shilon translates and continues] But if you are talking about step-by-step, isn't elections the first step toward a final solution to the Middle East?

[Nusaybah] What we wish is to have occupation terminated. Israel has not said so far that it is willing to terminate its occupation of our territories. Now, I think what we require as a first step is a statement of Israeli friendship...

[Shilon, interrupting] Yes, but you know Israel claims its own sovereignty of these territories, so why give them up before the negotiations?

[Nusaybah] I am not saying they should give it up. They should make a statement of intention. Now if, on the other hand, Israel does not intend to evacuate any territory, then I don't see why there should be any negotiations with the PLO or with elected representatives from here.

[Shilon] Israel accepts 242 and 338; you know it.

[Nusaybah] Well, it's not enough. Mr Shamir has said and has continued to say after coming back from Washington all kinds of things about the fact that the territories belong to Israel, that we cannot have our own state, and that anyone that identifies with the PLO will go to jail, that every Israeli that wishes can settle in the land of Greater Israel, that there will be no international supervision of any elections, that Israeli forces will not withdraw from population centers, and so many other no's. Now, what we wish is a clear statement of intent: Does Mr Shamir intend to evacuate the territory occupied by Israel in 1967? If he is prepared to make such a declaration, then on our side we would be prepared to sit down and negotiation. But until this happens there is nothing to negotiate about.

[Shilon translates and continues] Thank you very much, Mr Sari Nusaybah.

PLO 'Studying' Proposals on Holding Elections

TA2704150389 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] It has been learned from informed sources that the PLO is currently studying proposals calling on the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict to determine which countries might form the international forces to supervise the elections, should a final agreement be reached on holding them. The proposals also call for a fixed timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces and their replacement with international forces.

These sources, who asked to remain anonymous, added that the PLO has shown flexibility with regard to the possibility of accepting the U.S. paper on Namibia as a pattern for resolving the Palestinian problem.

Shamir's Credibility on 'New Ideas' Doubted

TA2804162389 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 26 Apr 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Which 'Shamir' Should We Believe?"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at a cornerstone-laying ceremony for the establishment of a new settlement in the south of the West Bank two days ago: We shall build our country on every inch of this land where Jews set foot.

Shamir made this remark in front of the settlers to "prove" to them that he is still committed to his radical principles, and that he is acting within the framework of preserving the "land of Greater Israel." Shamir was able to "tickle" the emotions of those who share with him the "logic of intransigence and extremism!"

We are not citing this remark to engage in "rebukes," but to question the credibility of Shamir's words in the United States. He devoted these talks to convincing the Americans of what he called the dangers threatening the existence of Israel should it abandon the occupied territories. He proposed new "ideas" to U.S. officials about holding elections in the occupied territories, and negotiations on "self-rule" for the Palestinians for an interim period. This interim period would be followed by a final settlement and the achievement of peace between the Israeli and Palestinian people.

Which of these two contradictory messages should we, the Palestinians, believe? Should we believe Shamir's absolute and irreversible "faith" that the "entire land of Israel" is the property of the Jewish people, and that not even one inch of it can be given up? Or should we believe the "flexbility" which he displayed during his visit to Washington regarding his readiness to negotiate and make concessions?

Very simply the question is: What credibility is there in Shamir's words? And how can the Palestinian people believe what he says? It has become obvious to any clear-sighted person that peace cannot be achieved except through the principle of giving up "land in return for peace."

Despite the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories, and the growing fragmentation in the Israeli "fabric" because of the unclear perspective among the Israeli leadership, it is very clear to us which side is winning the present round. All we have to do is compare this Israeli situation to the peace offensive and clarity of vision by the Palestinian side.

Shamir may be able to procrastinate and maneuver to "gain time," but the time is gone when he could achieve his objectives by this method. As President George Bush reminded him during their recent meeting at the White House: Problems are not solved by themselves, but rather it is the action and courage of leaders, as well as their perspicacity, which solves problems.

Moreover, Shamir cannot ignore the change in U.S. and Israeli public opinion toward moderation and acceptance of direct negotiations with the PLO. It is no secret to anyone that American Jews and pro-Israeli congressmen reject the Israeli methods in addressing the situation in the occupied territories. Senator Paul Simon, one of Israel's staunchest supporters, warned Shamir that U.S. public opinion has begun to change.

The Americans no longer consider Israel as the wronged and weak side in the region, particularly with regard to its practices in the occupied territories. The question urgently posed here is this: Will Shamir, after his "heroic" speeches, be able to adopt the political decisions which the head of the Israeli Government must adopt in order to advance the peace process?

Sharansky Candidacy for UN Ambassadorship Fails

TA2804134989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Natan Sharansky's candidacy for the post of ambassador to the United Nations has fallen through. Our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that this was decided at today's meeting between Sharansky, the prime minister, and the foreign minister.

The identity of the new ambassador to the United Nations is still unknown; it depends on the nomination of a new ambassador to Washington. According to the coalition agreement, both nominations require the agreement of both the Likud and the Alignment.

Nahhalin Inquiry Yields 'Grave' Conclusions

TA2804063889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Report by military correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] An inquiry commission headed by an army colonel has been looking into the events in the Hebron District village of Nahhalin for over 10 days. Soldiers and local residents have been interrogated, and the event was reconstructed at the scene.

The final report will be submitted only next week. This is because of the complexity and sensitive nature of the joint IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Border Police operation and the relationship between the two forces, as well as the desire not to offend, on the one hand, and the need to conduct a thorough investigation on the other. The main conclusions of the report, however, are known. Yesterday Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, met with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of the General Staff, whom he briefed on the main findings.

One of the conclusions states that the coordination between the IDF regional headquarters and the Border Police force did not meet requirements. The operation had not been properly prepared, and the soldiers were insufficiently briefed. The troops were not aware that the village was particularly hostile, did not possess all the relevant information, and were not sufficiently acquainted with the terrain, being usually in charge of the Hebron area. The responsibility for this lies with the regional IDF headquarters, which prepared the operation and supervised it. Another conclusion states that the soldiers deviated from regulations on opening fire.

A total of 25 border policemen took part in the operation in the village. They arrived at the village at 0500 and fired 150 live bullets. Each soldier had eight magazines. After using plastic and rubber bullets, shock grenades, and firecrackers, they resorted to live bullets.

The findings so far are grave, and conclusions involving personnel are expected. The report makes it clear that although forces resorted to excessive fire and irregularities took place, no local resident was killed in his home. As one senior officer emphasized, the findings do not indicate that the Border Police carried out a deliberate slaughter, but rather lost control of the developments after they encountered blocked roads, were surrounded by ax-wielding local residents, were pelted with stones, and faced mortal danger in some cases.

The conclusions will be submitted in writing next week. The chief of staff has promised to make the report public when it is submitted. As already stated, conclusions involving personnel will be drawn, and operational lessons will be learned concerning both the Border Police and the operational association between the Border

Police and the military headquarters. Other conclusions are expected to include the sphere of norms of conduct for border policemen, as in the IDF.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

3 Die in 27 Apr Disturbances

TA2704204689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Three youths were killed, and at least 20 wounded in clashes with soldiers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus from army sources. One youth was killed in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza in clashes between soldiers and youths coming out of the mosques. The youth was transferred to the Tel Hashomer Hospital where he died from his wounds. He was buried this evening in Al-Shaja'iyah. Gaza residents report that this caused a renewal of the disturbances.

A youth was also killed in the Tall al-Sultan neighborhood in Rafah in clashes with soldiers. His friends snatched the body and buried it. Earlier today a youth was killed in clashes with soldiers in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus. Two other youths were wounded in this incident. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a curfew on the 'Askar camp.

Today there was a general strike in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in accordance with the call of the leaders of the uprising. Most of the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip area are under curfew, as well as neighborhoods in Rafah and Gaza.

79 Reported Injured 27 Apr

TA2804100389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Apr 89 pp 1, 20

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Troops shot and killed three Palestinians and wounded 79 in clashes in the territories during yesterday's general strike, according to Palestinians and hospital reports. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed the deaths and 24 casualties. [passage omitted]

In one West Bank incident, an Arab policeman was attacked with rocks and knives at Nazlat 'Isa, near Tulkarm. He opened fire to repel his attackers, but there were no casualties. It was the latest in a series of attacks on Palestinians accused of collaborating with the authorities.

Protesters defied a curfew at the Tulkarm refugee camp and clashed with troops, and a 28-year-old man lost an eye after he was shot by a rubber bullet, Palestinians said. It was the second eye injury reported in as many days at the Tulkarm camp.

A cameraman working for the VISNEWS network, Eli Fastman, was shot and wounded in the head by a rubber bullet while filming youths erecting a stone-roadblock and hurling rocks in Bayt Sahur. He was treated at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and released.

At Silwad, near Ramallah, a teenager was wounded when settlers from neighboring 'Ofra opened fire, Palestinians said. In clashes with troops in Janin, one person was wounded.

At 'Anabta, on the Nabulus-Tulkarm road, troops uprooted trees after an Israeli woman had her jaw broken by a rock thrown at her car Wednesday night. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 28 April adds that "in the Arab village of Jatt, located in the Triangle, a firebomb was hurled during a basketball game between a local team and that of Bet Eli'ezer. Nobody was hurt. Police searched the area, but made no arrests."]

Gaza police were targeted for attack yesterday. At noon, several dozen masked people from Al-Shati' attacked the sleeping quarters of the force with stones, empty bottles and metal objects. Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the attackers. An hour later, Palestinians threw concrete slabs from an upper storey of a building on Gaza's main street at a convey of police cars. Two policemen were lightly wounded by glass splinters and treated at Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

A group of 300 Palestinian educators issued an appeal to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and to foreign ministers abroad, urging them to intervene to secure the reopening of West Bank educational institutions, the release of prisoners and the return of Palestinian deportees.

Tulkarm Curfew Lifted

TA2804080189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The curfew imposed on the township of Tulkarm in the wake of disturbances 2 days ago was lifted this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that curfews remain in force in the neighborhood of Dhannabah, in the Tulkarm refugee camp, and in the new and old 'Askar refugee camps.

Most of the Gaza Strip refugee camps and several Gaza and Rafah neighborhoods remain under curfew.

Man Hurt in Car Explosion

TA2804084289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Excerpt] It is now apparent that sabotage caused the explosion of an Opel vehicle this morning in central Jerusalem near Tefahot Bank on Helene Hamalka Street. The car was completely burned and its driver badly burned and hospitalized at Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the possibility that the driver was preparing a car bomb has not been excluded. The vehicle bore an Israeli license plate. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 28 April adds that "the Arab driver of the burned car is from the village of Shu'fat."]

Suspected Collaborator Shot

TA2804091689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] This morning in Nabulus, a 35-year-old man was shot and badly wounded in the head. Unknown persons shot him in the street. The man was taken to a hospital. Nabulus sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the man was suspected of assisting Israeli authorities.

Wounded Collaborator Dies

TA2804120289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Excerpts] Friday prayers ended a short while ago, and although this is usually a dangerous hour, no incidents have been reported so far.

Throughout the day, clashes between residents and soldiers were reported in various locations. A Gaza hospital reports receiving two wounded. In the Gaza Strip, three large refugee camps and several Gaza and Rafah neighborhoods are under curfew.

Another problematic place today is Hebron. We have learned that six wounded residents were brought to 'Aliya Hospital, two of them with gunshot wounds and four with rubber bullet injuries. One of the wounded was transferred to East Jerusalem's Al-Maqasid Hospital. In the wake of the riots, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed the central section of Hebron, declaring it a closed military area.

Jewish residents of Hebron have long complained of the numerous incidence of attacks against Jewish sites. Some 40 residents of Qiryat Arba' today arrived in Hebron to assist with what they defined as the safeguarding of the Jewish sites, in accordance with the Hebron and Qiryat Arba' settlers' resolution of some time ago. The Hebron Information Center [settlers' body] today sent cables to the country's leaders—the defense minister, the prime minister, the chief of the General Staff, and the Central Command commander—pointing out the high number of incidents aimed at Jews. In a report sent by the Information Center, 350 security incidents which took place since the beginning of this month are enumerated. [passage omitted]

Along with disturbances and clashes with the security forces in Judaea and Samaria, assaults continue on residents suspected of assisting Israeli authorities. Some time ago, a report from Nabulus stated that the man who was shot in the head by unknown persons this morning died of his wounds. [passage omitted]

It now appears that the Molotov cocktail that was thrown this morning in the vicinity of Bet Romano in Hebron, which was believed to have been directed at an IDF observation post, was in fact hurled at a local bakery whose owners are suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Israeli Girl Injured

TA2804172589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] An Israeli girl was injured by stones in Halhul early this evening. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the girl was traveling with her parents in their car to Qiryat Arba'. Upon arriving at Halhul, Arab residents signaled them to stop. When the driver slowed down, they stoned the car. The injured child was transferred to a military clinic where she received treatment.

In the riots which took place in Hebron this morning, Hebron residents claim that the man who was severely wounded at Policeman's Square was shot by an Israeli civilian, and not by soldiers. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the police have launched an investigation into the circumstances of the man's injury.

Mosad Concerned Over U.S. Intelligence Ties

TA2704111989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by France-based correspondent Yo'av Tocker]

[Text] The Mosad is very concerned about the sharp disagreements recently voiced in Washington between the CIA and the FBI as to future cooperation between the Israeli and U.S. intelligence services. This was reported in INTELLIGENCE WORLD [name as published], which is published in Paris and which specializes in international intelligence.

According to the report, senior FBI personnel have recently tried to put a stop to the close cooperation with the Mosad, which has been in effect since the fifties. FBI figures, including some who served in senior CIA positions in the past, are now trying to direct this preferred cooperation to "routine channels." The CIA, however, wishes to continue the close ties.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 27 April, in a similar report by Paris-based correspondent Dan Gil'adi on page 1, adds: "'Amiram Nir's death in a plane crash could have been "an action carried out on the orders of one of George Bush's transition team members before Bush's assumption of the Presidency," contends the latest issue of the French periodical INTELLIGENCE WORLD. "Bush feared revelations that might have been harmful to him in the course of Colonel Oliver North's trial."]

Gorbachev Adviser, Soviet Editor To Visit

TA2804140789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 89 p A4

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Two leading Soviet personalities, one of whom is a member of parliament and the cultural affairs and public opinion adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev, accepted invitations to visit Israel in the summer. They will be the guests of the Public Relations Institute headed by Prof Eliyahu Zamchuv, the Writers' Association, and the Hebrew University.

Author Chingiz Aytmatov, one of the best-known writers in the USSR, had announced that he would visit Jerusalem in the 2d half of May. Later, however, he asked to postpone the visit to the end of the summer because Gorbachev had invited him to join his entourage visiting Beijing. [passage omitted]

The other visitor is Valentin Krotich, the editor of the weekly OGONEK whose circulation is 2.5 million. Krotich, who recently published interviews with Margaret Thatcher, Helmut Kohl, and Francois Mitterrand, wants to interview Israeli Government leaders. He will arrive in Israel in the 2d week of June.

Number of Beirut Refugees in Security Zone Grows

TA2804124789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 89 p A2

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] The flow of Shi'ite refugees arriving from bombarded Beirut into the south Lebanese security zone, controlled by Israel and the South Lebanese Army, is growing. The number of those entering the zone reached some 20,000 by the end of the week. Thousands of refugees are joining the population of some 150,000 in the security zone and are living in abandoned houses in the villages. Most of the refugees—some 13,000—entered the western sector of the security zone and are concentrated in the villages adjacent to the township of Bint Jubayl and inside the township itself. The only restriction imposed on them by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is a ban on entry by vehicles.

A military source told HA'ARETZ yesterday that had permission been granted to enter the security zone by vehicles, the numbers would have doubled and perhaps even tripled. He said that some 50,000 refugees can be absorbed in the security zone from the point of view of housing and infrastructure.

Some 95 percent of those arriving are Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims, while only 5 percent are Christians. The reason for the small number of Christian refugees arriving in the security zone is the lack of territorial continuity between the Christian enclave and the axes leading from Beirut southward. In the view of the same source, some of the refugees might remain in the area even after quiet returns to Beirut. [passage omitted]

Syrian Involvement in Lebanon Criticized

TA2804170089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem reacted to the cease-fire called in Lebanon today by saying that it has again been proven that Syrian involvement in Lebanon is a source of killing and instability. Spokesman Alon Li'el said that hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled southward from the battle area found refuge in the security zone near the Israeli border.

Exploitation of Jordanian 'Food Riots' Denied

TA2804055189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Israel has denied charges by King Husayn that it exploited last week's food riots to divert attention from the uprising in the territories. Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el told foreign correspondents that Israel has no interest whatsoever in destabilizing the situation in Jordan or weakening the regime in Jordan. He called the king's accusations baseless and nothing to do with reality.

Commentary Views 'Disturbances' in Jordan

JN2804162689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 28 Apr 89

["Observation"]

[Text] In his letter of designation charging Zayd ibn Shakir with forming a new government, King Husayn summed up the urgent mission of the incoming administration in 19 points, mostly dealing with domestic affairs. The change of government that took place against the backdrop of disturbances in some major Jordanian cities has to do with bread and butter issues.

If the action program of the new government has drawn a clear picture of the problems that need to be addressed in Jordan, in fairness to them, it must be said that the Jordanian authorities have not attempted to paper over the causes of the disturbances and their direct link with the country's economic ills brought about by dwindling Arab and other aid that forms a principal source of income. Hence, the success of the required reform will depend mainly on how successful Jordan will be in securing outside aid. The new government cannot possibly find alternative, local sources of income in time to cope with the urgent problems.

All these points are well known and clear. The causes of the crisis are known. The urgent problems are also known, as is the road to reform. Jordanian officials have discussed these with courage and frankness.

However, and despite the objective approach of King Husayn on the crisis, he unfortunately has failed to completely free himself of the demagoguery by which Arab rulers have usually involved Israel in each and every problem and blamed their difficulties on it. In King Husayn's statements to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, in which he discussed the circumstances surrounding his country's crisis, he obtrusively mentioned the name of Israel, charging that it sought to inflate the crisis in order to export the intifadah [uprising] to Jordan or to cover up what is taking place in Israel and in order to convey to the world an image of bloody Arabs who are not interested in stability.

Does the Jordanian monarch think that forcing Israel's name will help him cope with the crisis? Will pointing a finger at Israel erase the causes of the crisis, which King Husayn himself has admitted, including shortfalls in income, a lopsided order of priorities, and spending polices, over and above corruption and favoritism, which the letter of designation said must be fought and uprooted?

Israel, as Jordan and its high-ranking officials know, is not out to achieve gains from disturbances in neighboring states. Indeed, the reverse is the case. Unlike those who are actively engaged in plotting and incitement against Israel, Israel realizes that it has an interest in tranquillity and stability prevailing in neighboring countries. The Lebanese situation is the best example of the troubles Israel experiences when a neighboring state is destabilized.

We hope that King Husayn and his new government will find the right and practical measures to effect a reform to ensure tranquillity, stability, and affluence to the people of Jordan and of the region.

Artillery Commander on Training, Arab Weaponry

TA2704102689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpt] Qazrin—Reservists in the Artillery Corps received only refresher training courses over the last year, and their level of proficiency would have been severely impaired had the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] not restored the training programme for the coming year to 1987 levels, the corps commander, Brig.-Gen. Shmu'el Reshef, said on Monday.

"The artillery is a professional corps, there's no question that the reserves couldn't withstand another year like that," he said.

Reshef was speaking to reporters during a corps-wide proficiency test conducted on the Golan Heights, in which crews from all the corps' units participated.

According to Reshef, Jordan's artillery force is primarily self-propelled and the most sophisticated in the Arab world, but Syria's investment in self-propelled artillery pieces and other improvements will add a new dimension to the future battlefield.

"Within five to 10 years we will see a new Syrian artillery corps, entirely different from what exists today. They are currently investing in several auxiliary systems such as command and control and meteorological systems and fire-control computers. We will have to deal with a new threat," he said.

Reshef also said the Iraqi army acquired a wide variety of modern artillery systems during its war with Iran.

As to the impact of the IDF's budgetary constraints on the Artillery Corps, Reshef said: "An addition to the budget would enable the artillery to provide cover to infantry and armoured forces at a much higher level, much more effectively, quickly, and accurately."

Reshef said the Artillery Corps was primarily an offensive force, and firmly rejected calls for the IDF to adopt a more defensive military doctrine. [passage omitted]

Navy Officer on Antichemical Warfare Systems

TA2804152289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has developed defensive systems for Naval vessels against chemical warfare. The systems are drilled every few months. This was stated by the head of the Doctrine and Training Department of the navy to the navy publication BEN HAGALIM [BETWEEN THE WAVES]. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the organ publishes data on some of the defensive measures.

These measures include new sprinkler systems which are permanently fitted into hydrants on deck. Hoses, operated by sea water pressure, spray off chemical agents. There is also a system to bring clean air into the ship by filtering it through a special filter.

Water Supply Problem Seen as Obstacle to Peace

TA2504180989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 89 p B1

[Article by Re'uven Pedatzur: "Water From the Rock of Contention"]

[Text] Ultimately, after the political moves are exhausted, there will still be one essential obstacle on the way to implementing any settlement in the West Bank. Indeed, everybody ignores it in the meantime, but it is bound to eventually be highlighted in Israel's contacts with its Arab interlocutors. This obstacle is related neither to the nature of elections in the territories, nor to the identity and affiliation of the Palestinian candidates. Neither has it anything to do with choosing between the option of autonomy or a confederation settlement.

All of the above, though undoubtedly important from the political viewpoint, will become secondary issues when the time of agreement on the terms of the political solution draws near. Any future agreement will stand or fall on one essential issue: the water problem. It is only the ability to reach solutions acceptable to both parties on the water issue that will enable the implementation of a settlement on the future of the West Bank. The fact that the Israeli Governments have ignored this issue and continue to evade an in-depth discussion of the real problem in Israel's relations with its eastern neighbors, again testifies to the deficient nature of strategic planning in Israel.

The reason for this unequivocal statement is quite simple: He who controls the water sources in the West Bank can literally dry up Israel's coastal strip. Controlling the two main aquifers in the West Bank, carrying out new, deep drillings, and then engaging in intensive pumping of the water in the western part of Samaria and in the areas of Janin and Tubas may leave the Jewish farmers of the Sharon region without irrigation water, and the Yizre'el Valley fields parched.

Therefore, a political settlement that does not include agreements on preventing excessive use of the dwindling water resources of Judaea and Samaria, a political settlement that does not include regulations for supervising the use of this water by the local government set up in the West Bank, such a settlement will not be worth the paper on which it is written.

Familiarity with the data clarifies how critical the water problem is. Nearly a third of the water supply consumed by Israel originates in the West Bank. There is already excessive use of the water resources in Judaea and Samaria, and this is causing a gradual decrease in the subterranean water level as well as affecting the quality of the water. Conservative calculations show that by next year there will be a shortage of about 200 million cubic meters of water in the West Bank. This shortage is at a time when the military authorities firmly restrict the water quotas allocated to the Palestinians, and prevent new drillings.

The annual water consumption of Israel now stands at about 1.9 billion cubic meters and is constantly growing.

Today the water resources in Judaea and Samaria supply more than 500 million cubic meters of the consumption of the Israeli residents within the Green Line boundaries. The limit on water use from subterranean sources in the West Bank stands at only about 615 million cubic meters per year. In other words, Israel uses more than 80 percent of the subterranean water in the West Bank.

The allocation of water to the Palestinians in the West Bank (about 1 million residents) next year is expected to stand at 137 million cubic meters. The consumption of the Jewish settlers (a little over 100,000) will amount to 160 million cubic meters. If we add to this the water that Israel will use, about 510 million cubic meters, we arrive at a requirement for a total consumption of 807 million cubic meters from West Bank sources. This means that in 1990 there will already be a shortage of about 200 million cubic meters of water in Judaea and Samaria. The factor that somewhat compensates for the shortage is the ability to pump about 200 million cubic meters per year from the Jordan River (mainly for the use of Jewish agriculture in the Jordan Valley).

Even so, within 30 years, the West Bank is expected to have a shortage that may reach 400 million cubic meters of water per year. If rule over Judaea and Samaria shifts into Palestinian hands, in the absence of the military authorities' restrictions, they will seek to increase the water quotas given them, and abolish the discrimination in the water allocation policy. Today, every Jewish settler in the West Bank consumes a quantity of water which is, on the average, more than 3 times as much as that consumed by a Palestinian resident.

In the event the discrimination is abolished, the shortage of water in the region will leap upward. Permission given by the local government to drill additional wells in the western basin of Judaea and Samaria will have an immediate and grave impact on the water resources of the coastal plain.

This grim picture of the situation has not been overlooked by Israeli decisionmakers since 1967, but they have preferred to ignore the need to engage in plans for long-term solutions to the water problem in the context of future political arrangements. The local solution chosen by them was that of nationalizing all water sources in the West Bank, and exercising tight supervision over drilling and the allocation of quotas. During the first 12 years of occupation, the military authorities gave permits for the drilling of only seven wells for local consumption.

It was only much later, in the mid seventies, that the water issue began to preoccupy decisionmakers. Then water commissioner, Menahem Cantor, submitted a memorandum on the issue to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in 1974. This was followed by a discussion in the Cabinet that failed to adopt decisions on long-term water policy planning. In fact, the prime minister and other ministers ignored the need to confront the water problem, and no regular staff work was done on the issue.

A series of meetings held with Jordanian Government officials in 1976 tackled common Israeli-Jordanian water problems, among other things, but a year later, in 1977, a political upheaval occurred in Israel [Likud replaced the Alignment in power], and the Begin government decided to cut off the talks with the Jordanian Government. In the meantime, the water line is drying up.

Reportage on New Government Under Zayd ibn Shakir

Royal Decree Names Cabinet

JN2704192489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1822 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Royal decree issued on new cabinet on 27 April; read by announcer; video shows each minister being sworn in by King Husayn as announcer reads his name]

[Text] The following royal decree has been issued:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, upon the resignation of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and taking cognizance of Article 35 of the Consitution, decree the following:

1. His Excellency Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir will be appointed prime minister and defense minister. And, upon recommendation of the prime minister:

2. Salim Masa'dah will be appointed deputy prime minister and minister of interior.

3. Tahir al-Masri will be appointed deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs.

4. Marwan al-Qasim will be appointed deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

5. Ibrahim Ayyub will be appointed minister of supply.

6. Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat will be appointed minister of Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts.

7. Dr Zuhayr Malhas will be appointed minister of health and social development.

8. Dr Hisham al-Khatib will be appointed minister of energy and mineral resources.

9. Dr 'Abdallah al-Nusur will be appointed minister of education.

10. Dr Nasir al-Din al-Asad will be appointed minister of higher education.

11. Yusuf Hamdan will be appointed minister of municipal, rural affairs, and environment.

12. Eng Shafiq al-Zawayidah will be appointed minister of public works and housing.

13. Dr 'Awad Khulayfat will be appointed minister of youth.

14. Yanal Hikmat will be appointed minister of tourism.

15. Ibrahim 'Iz al-Din will be appointed minister of state for cabinet affairs.

16. Dr 'Adnan Badran will be appointed minister of agriculture.

17. Eng Muhammad Salih al-Kilani will be appointed minister of water and irrigation.

18. Nassuh al-Majali will be appointed minister of culture and information.

19. Ziyad 'Innab will be appointed minister of industry and trade.

20. Eng Hikmat al-Khammash will be appointed minister of transportation and communications.

21. Basil Jardanah will be appointed minister of finance.

22. Ratib al-Wazani will be appointed minister of justice.

23. Dr Ziyad Fariz will be appointed minister of planning.

24. Dr Jamal al-Budur will be appointed minister of labor.

Issued at Basman Palace in Amman on 21 Ramadan 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 27 April 1989.

Al-Hindawi Chief of Royal Court

JN2704193489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] A royal decree has been issued appointing His Excellency Dhuqan al-Hindawi chief of the Royal Hashemite Court as of 21 Ramadan 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 27 April 1989.

Husayn Letter of Designation

JN2704200789 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Apr 89

["Text" of King Husayn's letter of designation to Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir after charging him with the formation of the new government]

[Text] Our dear Your Excellency Brother Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir may God protect you:

I send you greetings of brotherliness and love coupled with our appreciation and praise for your genuine patriotism and pure Arab affiliation and truthful commitment to the yearnings and interests of our cherished Jordan as well as your firm faithfulness to the objectives and aspirations of our glorious Arab nation.

You are a Hashemite who has been bequeathed by his late father Sharif Shakir, a preeminent leader of the Great Arab Revolt and one of those who helped our founding grandfather build the underpinnings of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, faithfulness to the principles of the revolt and integrity and allegiance to the nation and homeland and dedication in the service of our Jordanian Arab people and for the good of all its sons.

We have known you at close quarters as a faithful brother and brave soldier and an efficient commander and an honest, broad-minded citizen. In light of the resignation of the government of Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i and your known dedication to your homeland and fellow citizens of our dear Jordanian people, we task you to shoulder the responsibility of forming and heading the new government at this stage.

We want this stage to be a transitional phase to prepare for a new stage that is dictated by necessity to adjust to the new circumstances and components that engulf us and the region in which we live, and to be compatible with the requirements of change necessitated by the development that has materialized on the national arena in the economic, social, and cultural spheres.

Accordingly, we see the need for working to develop and ripen national notions and conceptions in all the areas that make up the sum total of society's activities so as to emerge from these developments with clear policies to serve as a guidline for the government to map executive programs for the citizens to absorb the dimensions that benefit them and the homeland, and which involve and integrate them wherever they may be with conviction, satisfaction, and enthusiasm, and to work in a spirit that achieves a balance between their rights as individuals and their obligations as citizens.

Accordingly, and in the interest of the desired aim, we think that top priority must be given to the following principles:

1. To restructure the various state agencies and their instituations in a scientific manner that takes into account the level of social development and the available resources, stressing integrity and devotion and requiring respect for efficiency and application of justice.

2. To prepare for a return to parliamentary life now that the hindrances and impediments resulting from the 1967 June war are out of the way and following the legal and administrative disengagement with the West Bank and the kingdom's recognition of the State of Palestine.

3. To consolidate the foundations of national unity and to show no leniency toward any attitude or behavior that may be detrimental to its cohesion.

4. To place a premium on individual and public discipline as a civilized value and to security and public order as a societal requirement to secure peace of mind and stability.

5. To entrench communication between officials and citizens within a framework of quiet, purposeful dialogue, both through direct contact and through the mass media. To respect the responsible freedom of expression and to support the freedom of the press in accordance with the national bases acknowledged worldwide, based on the concept of the unity of the people's affiliation and objectives, and plurality of individuals' interpretations. It will neither be indisciplined nor unduly regimented.

6. To rectify the situation of professional unions by restoring to them their professionalism so that they play the role for which they have been established. This is to serve and develop the professions, preserve their ethics, take care of the interests of those affiliated with unions, and to monitor unions' efficiency of performance.

7. To put an end to attempts to politicize religion and to entrench religion's cultural role in shaping the conscience of the nation. This is in view of its heavenly principles and guidelines and the noble values which are reflected on the behavior of the individual and the people in dealing, decisionmaking, and legislation.

8. To activate the private sector, urge it to expand its participation in serving the homeland, developing the country in all fields, and contributing toward tackling the problem of unemployment.

9. To entrench the bases of social justice, to evaluate the Jordanian experience in this field, and to reconsider the taxation system to grant everyone the honor to participate in duty toward the homeland and strengthen the pillars of social cooperation among its sons in a manner that does not contradict the eagerness to release the powers of innovation and initiative among those working in this sector.

10. To uproot favoritism and corruption wherever they exist, to take the required restrictions to curb illegal profits, to tackle the issue of economic crimes, to amend the work of agents and economic brokers so that it will be aimed at the interest and service of the country, not at making incredible profits at the expense of the country's reputation, resources, and interest.

11. To pay attention to tourism, not only for being an economically lucrative service, but for being one of the fields to gain friends and interact with other cultures. Our inherited Arab ethics, of which we are proud, should be the basis of dealing with tourists and visitors.

12. To continue to entrench our new experience in the health sector. This is through supporting the medical care establishment and exploiting our success in implementing the preventive medicine programs in order to achieve other successes.

13. To continue to implement the policy of educational development and to make sure of the soundness of academic curricula which reflect our aspirations to upgrade education, especially in the fields of vocational training and scientific acqusition in a manner coping with the innovative, cognitive development in the world.

To develop the character of the student of today, the man of the future, on sound national and pan-Arab bases which make him more aware of his country and history, proud of his country, ready to serve it, and proud of his Arab nation and his immortal Arab-Islamic heritage. More attention must be given to the higer education institutions. Scientific research in them must be intensified. It is to be stressed that their academic policies meet the state's needs.

14. To pay special attention to the sector of youths here and abroad; at schools, institutions, universities, clubs, or societies, and on various sports, cultural, and social levels. To pay special attention to youth affairs, coping with their aspirations, broadening channels of dialogue with them, and opening horizons before them to express and enhance their talents, exercise and develop their hobbies, develop their national and pan-Arab pride on well-studied scientific bases, to acquaint them with the concerns and interests of their homeland, and urge them to take part in voluntary work in various fields.

15. In light of man's awakening regarding the importance of safeguarding the universal environment, due to its connection with the safety and destiny of mankind, this issue must be dealt with. Activity and guidance regarding this issue must be intensified. Appropriate programs and legislation must be devised to preserve the local environment and cooperate with the world to preserve the universal environment. We hope that national feeling about preserving the environment in our country will become one of the basic values of our Jordanian society.

16. To further care for the overall ingredients of the agricultural sector, provided that this care is of a tangible scientific nature. To care for this sector in this manner whether this relates to the preservation of the limited farmland or to the prevention of the erosion of what has remained of it through the constructional expansion therein. To care for agricultural affairs in matters relating to the organization of irrigation affairs, to the building of dams, and to the best utilization of water.

Also, to care for this sector in matters relating to the good guidance provided to farmers on the cultivation of good plants and trees in their soil and on protecting these plants and trees, to imposing a strict supervision of private plant nurseries, and to making sure that seedlings that are suitable for differing agricultural environments in the Kingdom be chosen. To care for agricultural affairs in order to promote the production level, to organize the agricultural pattern and the marketing process, to display activity in the search for new markets, or to adopt any means that would reduce the production cost.

17. To proceed in deepening the administrative decentralization policy in governorates and to enrich this experience. Also, to choose well administrative governors so that they will be able to rise to the level dictated by the tasks assigned to them, especially in light of the requirements of the development regions policy adopted by the state as a national policy.

18. To continue to provide our Jordanian Armed Forces, the Arab Army, with the special care which they deserve within the available means. To work to reduce the negative effects resulting from the current financial crisis to the lowest possible level in order to maintain the maximum level of preparedness of these forces so that they can play their role in defending our national and pan-Arab security.

19. As for the Arab political level, we are determined to continue to pursue the march of Arab solidarity whose promising dawn was reborn at the summit of harmony and accord hosted by our capital Amman in 1987. One of the blessed results of this summit was the proclamation of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council in Arab and glorious Baghdad in February. This proclamation constitutes a positive addition to the joint Arab action and the mainstay of our nation's Arab solidarity.

God willing, we will continue to work with our brother members of the council to translate its principles into a positive pan-Arab work in favor of the council's peoples as well as those of the Arab nation alike, beginning with efforts to achieve Arab integration and ending with the attainment of an acceptable formula for Arab cooperation. As a matter of course, this necessitates the forging of cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union within the framework of the Arab League, considering that it is the mother organization embracing all.

On the Palestinian level, we will continue to support the policy being pursued, the moves being effected, and the stands being adopted by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We will adhere to the principles of noninterference in its affairs. At the same time, we will continue to support the Palestinian people's struggle and to exert every possible effort to help the PLO realize its legitimate national objectives of regaining the Palestinian people's freedom, their independence, and their sovereignty on their own national soil.

We have been recently tried in our dear homeland with regrettable and painful incidents which we will turn, God willing and with the efforts of the sincere people and with the will and resolve of the citizens, into a new springboard from which to restart the march of well-being, construction, and giving.

And say work (righteousness): Soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the believers. [part of a Koranic verse] Awaiting your naming of your colleagues the cabinet ministers, wishing you success, and entreating God the Almighty to guide us to the way of true guidance. Sincerely yours.

Your brother Al-Husayn ibn Talal

Amman, 21 Ramadan 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 27 April 1989

Reply to Designation Letter

JN2704205089 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1818 GMT 27 Apr 89

["Text" of reply letter by Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir to King Husayn's letter of designation on 27 April—read by announcer]

[Text] To our beloved Hashemite Majesty King Husayn, may God protect and support him. Your majesty, I am honored by the precious royal trust you have bestowed on me to form the new Jordanian Government. I bow to your auspicious directives that were contained in your letter of designation. I also bow to your gracious wish that I assume the responsibility at this stage in the history of our country that thrives under your majesty's incessant offering for the goodness and loftiness of our country, and for the good of our nation.

I am proud to be at your disposal; I, who have always had the honor since I started my career, to serve at your side, and under your directives and protection as a loving brother, a loyal friend, and as one of Al-Husayn's obedient soldiers.

While I extend to your majesty my thanks and gratitude for this precious trust, I ask God to enable me and my colleagues to perform the duty as leader Al-Husayn has defined it and as he believes befits his people. I would like to affirm to your majesty that I will remain, as always, one of those who have inherited the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, and one who will safeguard its message under your leadership, the doyen of the Hashemite family.

I ask God Almighty to grant you long life, support and champion you, and to grant us the power to live up to the trust of our leader and the patron of our march, and to be able to perform the duty of allegiance to your exalted throne, to your great person, and to our dear Jordanian homeland.

Your majesty, with your directives that were contained in the esteemed letter of designation you have entrenched the bases and rules of action in the coming transitional phase. With God's help, these directives will be the inspiration and the guide to my government and a national course of action for our country. Under your majesty's directives, our country must proceed with maturity and constancy from its present state of affairs to a serious stage of readjustment to the new circumstances that engulf us and the Arab region around us.

Your majesty, the national course that you have outlined defines fundamental concepts and visualizations on the basis of which my government will act to define its policies, and formulate its programs. With God's support and guidance, my government will work to translate these esteemed directives into executive policies and programs.

We will also work to translate them into decisions for reconstruction, the reinvigoration of the economic process, the organization of the administration within the government departments, the enhancement of the process of educational development, the care to be given to the younger generation, the securing of the atmosphere that guarantees the freedom of responsible expression and constructive participation, and the preparation for elections as a first step to the resumption of parliamentary life in the kingdom.

God willing, we will continue to proceed along your auspicious pan-Arab path of suppporting the march of Arab solidarity, the entrenchment of joint Arab action, and the translation of the principles and objectives of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] into a vivid and tangible reality. Within the framework of this reality, the potentials of our Jordanian people will interact with the potentials of the fraternal Arab peoples that are part of the ACC so that it may become a new pan-Arab springboard toward integration and unity.

We will continue to implement your majesty's policy of support for the PLO in its policies and moves, and for the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and independence on their national soil.

Your majesty's esteemed directives, to which we will abide with complete accuracy and pride, will be the best support for us in assuming the responsibility and the trust, and the best support for our homeland to enable it to overcome its difficult circumstances.

While I am honored to submit the names of my colleagues who will cooperate with me in assuming the responsibility, I ask permission from my king to issue the royal decree to form the government.

I ask God to protect and guide you, and to grant the march of our homeland success and welfare under the canopy of your enlightened Hashemite leadership.

Your obedient servant,

Zayd ibn Shakir

Amman, 21 Ramadan 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 27 April 1989

King Husayn Addresses Ma'an Notables 27 Apr

JN2704180989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today a delegation representing the shaykhs and notables of the Governorate of Ma'an.

A number of them delivered speeches in which they expressed regret, apology, and denunciation of the irresponsible acts which accompanied the recent regrettable disturbances in some cities and villages. The attendees affirmed allegiance and loyalty to his majesty the king, the decendent of the Hashemite family. They praised his majesty's huge efforts to build a modern state. They also praised his blessed contributions to support the Arab causes in both Arab and international arenas.

Talking about the incidents, His Majesty King Husayn said: These incidents left sorrow and pain in our souls and hearts because they entailed indications which harm the march of this country and our policy on providing all requirements of an honorable living for the sons of our dear Jordanian family, especially since these incidents damaged public facilities, which you used to demand and for which we borrowed money.

His majesty warned the delegation that our geographic position necessitates that we always be at a high degree of preparedness and vigilance to confront our enemies. He said this requires cooperation among us all to ward off dangers and confront the circumstances with a sincere national spirit and a genuine affiliation supported with awareness and guidance in order to fight the manifestations of tampering and recklessness and to devote ourselves to work and construction. He said this is in order to overcome the obstacles, achieve aspirations, and secure a bright future for our future generations.

His Majesty King Husayn noted the importance of dialogue and exchange of views. He said: We have begun a comprehensive revision of the circumstances and situations we experienced, and we will tackle all issues to entrench security and provide the requirements of strength, progress, and welfare for the dear sons of the homeland.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and a number of senior officials at the Royal Hashemite Court.

King Husayn Interviewed on 'Disturbances'

JN2704091089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0613 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Interview with King Husayn by Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, in Amman on 25 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Your Majesty, let us first concentrate on the domestic issues, which concern the Arab people just as much as they concern the Jordanian people. The question in this respect, Your Majesty, is: What was the course taken by the recent sudden disturbances in your country? Was it an economic course or were economic conditions exploited to achieve political aims?

Answer: At first, the disturbances took an economic course. We do not doubt that. But these disturbances could have acquired a political color had anyone tried to exploit them.

The beginning of these incidents was simple. They were started by the rise in fuel prices. The government should have explained that the rise in fuel prices would result in a rise in the prices of all fuel byproducts and usages. The government should have explained clearly that transport fares would automatically go up.

It seems that in the absence of this explanation, our people thought that the government would only increase the fuel prices and not the transport fares. This is impossible due to the link between the two prices. So, as you can see, the beginning of the incidents was simple. However, they did not remain simple when they expanded to include protests against other issues, which every citizen has the right to complain about.

This is why we instructed the security organs to tackle the incidents with a spirit of high responsibility so people would know where we were heading and what we could and could not do. We, as officials, want our decisions to be in the interests of the people.

I would like to point out here that people always find it difficult at first to accept new decisions—I mean the implementation of new decisions, which is natural, of course. But this imagined difficulty soon resulted in widespread rumors. So what started as a simple situation had acquired the political tinge we feared. We said the neighbors had a hand in what had happened.

By the neighbors, we mean Israel, of course. Israel had thought that magnifying this subject would lead to transporting the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories to us, or that by this publicity it could suppress the reports of the blessed intifadah of our Palestinian people and divert attention to our issues so it could present a new image of the Arabs to the world, such as saying: These are the Arabs. They are bloodthirsty and they do not want stable societies.

We, of course, have noticed that. We have also noticed that Israel had given publicity to our reports in its media and went about sounding out people on what was taking place here. Israel may have gone too far in reading between the lines and therefore reaching the wrong conclusions about these incidents.

Question: Your Majesty, it was observed that people's shouts during the disturbances were not directed against the regime or against you personally, but against the government. Could it be possible that the government of Zayd al-Rifa'i had failed in making the people accept its decisions or in making the proper preparations before issuing these decisions, such as taking into consideration the negative reactions that might result?

Answer: What happened was the result of an accumulation of things. We cannot say that the government alone shoulders the burden of what had happened. As to the government's failure in explaining the economic decisions, this is correct. Now the government has gone, and our regime is not so rigid as to resist the need to follow this or that course. As I said, the government has gone, and the trends of the shouts you spoke about confirm the solid relationship between the regime and the Jordanian people. They reflected the Jordanian people's pleasant appreciation of their king, which I am proud of.

I have called for a study and a revision of all the government's measures in the hope of reducing the burdens on the Jordanian citizens—burdens on which we do not have much choice. Our calculations have come contrary to our expectations. Incidentally, we are not the only ones to be affected by the economic recession. Many world nations have been affected by this recession before us. But these nations were quickly supported by their allies and friends with the necessary aid until they overcame their crisis. Question: Your Majesty, one of the things that has been said in connection with the incidents is that there is high confidence in you, but you gave long life to your government, which made it and its organs flaccid. What does Your Majesty think of this?

Answer: Some people believe, when making political interpretations, that the assumption by a government of its responsibility for a long time, without any change, might make it flaccid or perhaps shake the confidence between it and its people. I take this into consideration when it is true. Anyway, we are currently in the process of forming a new government that will undertake many issues.

Question: Your Majesty, normally, when a Jordanian government resigns or is asked to resign, the decision on the resignation or sacking is in one of your pockets and the decision to form a new government is in the other.

Answer: This is true. This time, however, I have nothing in my pockets, which indicates that events are now different. The formation of the government is not in my pocket, and I, under these circumstances, need a period of meditation because I want to live our problems directly so as to find direct solutions to them. The upcoming government, if it is formed after the period of meditation, will also be a temporary government, meaning that it will be assigned a definite task—namely, a swift solution to our problems based on a highly responsible vision, and supervising the general elections to establish a House of Representatives.

We do not have the right to believe that we are the only ones that can solve our country's problems. Let this new government share with us our responsibilities during the next stage, with all expectations of prosperity and spirit of optimism, so that our people will directly see the movements of our country, whether economic or poltical.

Question: Your Majesty, some have blamed Al-Rifa'i's government, saying it was high-handed, that is, it used to make decisions without prior explanations and even without introduction.

Answer: Our problems are not the making of the government alone. As I told you, they were the accumulations of a long time. Our estimates in the past were made on the basis of the financial aid from the fraternal Arab countries. Most of this aid used to go to the Army and the Armed Forces, which are the forces of the Arabs, protecting their longest front with Israel. This aid totally stopped or receded, and it was natural that this would considerably affect us. We have now started new estimates on new bases.

We have begun handling our foreign debt, which occurred as a result of our convictions that the Arab aid would not stop. In this respect, we do not forget that the outgoing government supervised the accomplishment of many tasks, including upgrading Palestinian-Jordnian relations to their current level, preparing successfully for the convening of the Arab summit of reconciliation and accord in Amman, and preparing and supervising the agreements of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. Nevertheless, the government was fated to face a critical stage that affected it, and what God brings is good. Question: Your Majesty, they also say that the outgoing government has benefited from the British Tornado aircraft deal?

Answer: This talk was mentioned in foreign media. The Tornado deal was canceled because we were unable to conclude it although it is an important deal for Jordan and for Jordanian defense. It later became clear to us that there are certain states which do not want Jordan to obtain this type of warplanes—I mean Israel. Just as Israel succeeded in canceling a similar deal for us with the United States, it succeeded in canceling our deal with Britain, not because we were affected by the propaganda, but because our financial situation does not allow us to conclude it.

But, when they say that the Tornado is expensive, people confuse its price by itself and the price with all its equipment and the full use of its features, including training pilots, where the cost of training one pilot reaches 1 million pounds sterling. It is known that the Tornado is a high-technology aircraft. It is an interceptor, whose importance is known to all pilots who encounter it.

The agreement on this type of warplanes was effected between the British Government and Jordan. Through its officials, the British Government itself has refuted Western media reports and all insinuations about the deal. Therefore, there is no truth about what was said concerning any benefits to the outgoing government from this deal. This is nonexistent.

Question: It was also said, Your Majesty, that you reduced the size of the of Armed Forces and reduced spending on them by 25 percent following pressures from the IMF?

Answer: Yes. There was a drop in spending on the Armed Forces, but not at the volume they talk about. This reduction was inescapable. Now, it pains me to see some of our pilots out of service due to our economic circumstances. However, we will seriously endeavor to find them work in some Arab states so that they can maintain their abilities and talents, on which we spent so much.

Yes, we have reduced military spending. But, we had to. We wished the Arab aid to continue, even for a while, until conditions improve. In spite of this, we still hope that the Arab states will consider this point in particular. We still shoulder the burden of confrontation on the longest military front with Israel, which constitutes an important line of defense for the whole nation.

Question: Your Majesty, you talked about elections and a new temporary government. When will these elections be held, and when will this government be formed?

Answer: The elections are coming soon, very soon. However, let us first finish the period of meditation, and after that everything will come on time. I assure you that the time for the proclamation of the new government and the elections is not far.

Question: By the way, Your Majesty, does the Jordanian Constitution allow you to assume the post of prime minister, because there are many who say that Your Majesty will assume the executive power in the country?

Answer: The Jordanian Constitution does not allow this. However, monitoring the government and following up its work is one of the affairs of the Jordanian monarchy. But, as for me becoming prime minister, the Constitution does not allow me to do this.

Question: Let us move on to another issue. In states that form blocs such as the Arab Cooperation Council, an important part of which is Jordan, the allied states rush to help each other in case one of them is exposed to domestic troubles or to economic crises. How did the ACC states behave toward you?

Answer: The ACC was formed only recently. Its policy will be firmly and clearly defined when the ACC summit is held in Egypt. Nevertheless and despite its recent formation, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn arrived in Amman carrying pure and noble Arab sentiments and placed his resources at our disposal. He spoke with us in accordance with genuine Arab values. The Yemen Arab Republic's president, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, also came to Jordan. We also told him what we had.

Similarly, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak followed up events in Jordan. As you can see, we are very optimistic over the effects of this cooperation on our Jordanian people. However, and as I told you, we are still at the beginning. The concepts regarding this beginning, with all its good effects on the ACC, will be raised and dealt with in the upcoming ACC summit in Egypt.

Question: How does this cooperation reflect on the Jordanian people economically?

Answer: The reflections are many, God willing, and there will be many expectations. We view the ACC as a source of optimism and a springboard on the pan-Arab level. We view it as the starting point to gather Arab resources and build Arab power with awareness, coordination, and determination. It will be a link in joint Arab action and a means of coordination and cooperation with the other Arab councils in terms of issues of interest to the Arab nation.

As far as our expectations are concerned, it is possible to establish industries in the ACC with a strategic view so that they will be protected within the markets of the four member states. We will define the places of their establishment to eliminate competition.

Thus, the industries in this country will not be established in that country and so on. I believe that the results of this planning will reflect positively on our peoples' interests. We will also be able to move as one body to tackle our import and export problems. Moreover, we will be able to study the needs of our markets for foreign industries and we may ask to establish them on a joint basis in our countries.

As I said, there are many expectations, and the opportunities are numerous. We might later find ourselves in a better position. The important thing is to be patient to realize these aims.

Question: Your Majesty, you have been blamed for the fact that over the past 2 years, you concentrated on external issues and neglected domestic problems with the result that Jordan witnessed the recent events.

Answer: My work on the external level had good results in various Arab domains. This work has been crowned with an agreement by 4 states with a population of 80 million to establish a cooperation council. Therefore, we must evaluate these results. We are now in the picture and I am optimistic that good results will be realized from cooperation among the four states. And I believe that this cooperation will have a good economic impact on our people. In such issues, we cannot pick the fruits very soon, but the prospects seem good and our people will feel them and enjoy their fruits, especially since the market of these four states is large, in terms of both consumption and production. Question: Your Majesty, let us now move to another subject. During your recent visit to the United States, you said that the Americans will double their assistance. What kind of assistance is going to be doubled, and, speaking of the visit, what is its outcome?

Answer: This time I felt that the new U.S. Administration's dealing with Jordan was an important one. I enjoyed a long stretch of time in my talks with President Bush. The traditional U.S. assistance to Jordan in the past has been $300 million. If this is doubled, then it is easy to compute the figure. The visit has been successful and important.

Question: What about your foreign debts, Your Majesty? How much?

Answer: They amount to $6 billion, exactly the same amount we expected to receive in case the Arab financial support to Jordan continued. Most of this support, as I said, went to the Army, military preparedness, and development. We are serving these debts, through high interest rates, because we are eager to enhance the credibility of Jordan and its image as a country honoring its obligations. We are not the only country in the world falling in debt, but we are keen on our credibility. We, therefore, adopted the recent austerity policy in accordance with the recommendations of the IMF, so that this credibility can be enhanced.

Question: But, Your Majesty, things suddenly developed: The dinar declined, and the cost of living rose. Tell us what happened.

Answer: Partly, what happened can be explained in terms of the Arab saying: "When people talk about a water shortage, everybody feels thirsty." I wonder why there is this horrible fever of exchanging Jordanian dinars into dollars. Imagine, even the taxi drivers began to talk about the dinar and the dollar, although a great many of these exchanges were unjustifiable. Too much talk about a water shortage triggers off thirst.

Of course, some things happened, and some people wanted and wagered on a suffocating economic crisis to exploit it politically and bring Jordan to its knees. Those who wanted this are known, and they do not conceal their intentions tward us. Yes, there is a foreign currency crisis, but it should not be as sharp as it appears. If we stand fast for a while, the crisis will retract.

Why? Because the decline in the value of the dinar has economic benefits. It will increase the volume of our exports and develop our tourist industry. When exports flourish and tourism grows, this will definitely reflect positively on the currency and capital flow into the country. Two or three years ago, the currencies of some countries, such as the FRG and Switzerland, were high against the dollar; then, they fell alarmingly, declining to one-third of the current rate, after which they rose again.

Currency fluctuations have their advantages and disadvantages. Our crisis is not that big, and if the Arab assistance to us had continued, everything here would have been normal as regards currency.

Question: Does this mean that you hope that your conditions will improve regardless of the assistance?

Answer: We hope that the assistance will continue. However, when we become adapted to the current conditions, when the economic relations among the ACC states are strengthened, creating joint, integrated industries and allowing free passage for people and commodities, and when the conditions of the Arab homeland in general are strengthened, all of this will reflect positively on the Jordanian conditions.

The important thing is that this crisis should not weaken us, that our people should exercise patience. Not everything that is said is true. Rumors sometimes lead to what I have told you. Talking about a water shortage makes everybody thursty.

Question: What about the Palestinian role in the recent riots? Was it an inflaming or an extinguishing role?

Amswer: We want to record the fact that the Palestinian brothers played a positive role and were completely distanced from the riots. The PLO role is appreciated because of its pacifying nature, with the exception of some dissident organizations and some parties that believed they would benefit from the situation without taking the trouble to measure the nature of relations between the Jordanian crown and the Jordanian people.

I returned from the United States and our instructions have always been to face the disturbances with a sense of responsibility and hence place the people before their resonsibilities in a frank and genuine way. As a regime, we ultimately aim to promote the good of the people and to argue with them in a positive way.

Question: Are you intending to alleviate the burden of the people by reducing taxes and halting the implementation of certain development projects as part of the measures you have mentioned?

Answer: There will be measures. We will implement anything that might reduce the burdens of the citizens. Indeed, I have asked that consideartion be given to every measure that might lead to realizing this aim and to the possibility of bearing its effect as much as possible. As I have told you, we are now in a state of contemplation. To us, politics is the art of what is possible.

Question: Some charge the Jordanian security system with inefficiency because it could not predict what was going to happen beforehand.

Answer: This proves that the beginning of all that happened was spontaneous. Therefore, it was tackled and dealt with in a civilized and responsible manner.

However, in spontaneous beginnings, things become worse as wrong concepts develop. As I told you, some of the people's concepts were that harsher, unprecedented measures would follow later. One such wrong concept is diverting the course of the spontaneous economic troubles to political courses.

Therefore, the security system dealt with the disturbances in such a responsible manner. The security system heard the complaint and dealt with it in the manner that happened and which you are aware of. I believe that people's complaints are now being treated on the highest level.

We hope that we will succeed in reaching solutions that alleviate the feelings of the people.

Question: By the way, and since we are talking about the internal situation, some believe that the resignation of Al-Rifa'i's government means the end of the honeymoon between Jordan and Syria.

Answer: Much is being said, but the outgoing government has nothing to do with the issue of the honeymoon between Jordan and Syria. This decision is connected with Jordan's supreme policy-making.

However, we heard the same things that you heard. We heard many things. Our relations with Syria are as you can see them. President al-Asad contacted me and was reassured about the situation here.

We hope that good coordination will be realized with him in the upcoming summit over the Lebanese issue, which we hope will end so that we will stop seeing Lebanese bloodbaths and so that the Lebanese brothers will be on the level of their responsibility to manage their country's affairs. Question: Your Majesty, during your recent visit to the United States, an impression has emerged that you agreed to the proposals of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, which call for holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

Answer: It is not I who should agree, it is those who are the owners of the cause. I told the Americans that I will give my blessings if the owners of the cause agree. That is, if they believe there is flexibility in Shamir's proposals. What I do not want is for these proposals to become some kind of procrastination in a cause for which we want clear solutions. I, of course, bless whatever the PLO thinks because it is the owner of the cause.

Question: Your Majesty, what about the ACC? There are some who believe that it is an axis and there are some who believe that the objectives behind it are not at all related to economic cooperation?

Answer: We support the improvement of the Arab League Charter. In the future, it is better for the Arab League to hold dialogue with 3 Arab councils than with 22 Arab states. The ACC is a stream that falls in this framework and we hope it will have an economic power to benefit its peoples. We also hope it will have open channels with the other groupings that have emerged in the Arab world to cooperate with and facilitate dialogue among them.

Question: Your Majesty, since we are discussing Arab affairs, the Lebanese question is imposing itself on our concerns. What about this fraternal country? Will the Syrians withdraw from it?

Answer: We support the withdrawal of all foreign forces that are present in Lebanon. The pictures and scenes that reach us from Lebanon are painful, giving a bad impression about us to the outside world. The burden of the Lebanese people is great.

I believe that the six-man Arab committee has presented its proposals for an extended truce supervised by Arab military observers so that through this committee an idea will be formed on the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon. All of us must head the wishes of the international community, which insists on removing all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Question: But what if the six-man committee fails in its mission? Do you think that we will be facing the first inter-Arab war between Syria and Iraq over Lebanon?

Answer: The situation is horrible, as I have just said. We are awaiting the convening of the extraordinary Arab summit in Morocco where we will discuss all the Arab issues. What is required is the withdrawal of all foreign armies from Lebanon. The situation is very grim, and the killing there is taking its course in an outrageous, grotesque manner.

Question: Your Majesty, what if the [Arab] summit conference were convened and Egypt not invited? Do you still have the same position in the ACC—that is, you will boycott any summit that is not attended by Egypt?

Answer: Yes, we will not attend if Egypt is not invited. We have said this formally, and we have a formal resolution in this regard. However, we have learned that Egypt will attend and will be invited to the summit. Also, the next summit conference will discuss all Arab issues. It is high time to convene such a meeting.

Question: Specifically, when will this summit be convened?

Answer: The summit will be held either on 20 May or on 10 June. It will be convened on one of these two dates, and contacts about this subject are under way. We hope that the Morocco meeting will be similar to the summit of reconciliation and accord, which was held in Amman and in which the spirit of frankness and reconciliation prevailed.

It is to our benefit, as Arabs, to end the tensions in our Arab homeland, which reflect negatively on our economic conditions. This is demonstrated by the disturbances witnessed by more than one Arab country, which were due to the economic deficiency or due to the burdens of these disturbances themselves and their damaging consequences.

Question: Your Majesty, what about the Gulf Cooperation Council, have its countries rushed to you after the recent disturbances that occurred in your country?

Answer: The leaders of the Gulf states reassured themselves on our internal situation. Here, we felt that they were sympathetic to us during the events. We hope their economic conditions will improve so that our conditions can improve.

We were very pleased for their good feelings toward us. I have always informed them about my conditions and that of my country and I wanted to know personally if they understood me. My internal conditions are known to them with all their details and I was very satisfied for their positions and for their asking about us during the disturbances.

Al-Qasim Interviewed on Husayn's U.S. Talks

PM2704151389 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Apr 89 pp24-26

[Interview with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Raghidah Dirgham in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: During his first meeting with President George Bush on this current visit, King Husayn, according to a U.S. official, expressed concern regarding a number of ideas including elections in the West Bank and Gaza. After his meeting with Secretary of State James Baker, the King said he was happier and more optimistic than during any of his visits in the past several years. What happened? What is the reason for this optimism?

Al-Qasim: The most important thing in the explanation given by the U.S. Administration to his majesty the king is that the idea of elections will be a part of a whole leading to a just and comprehensive peace. Nobody anywhere can object to the principle of elections because elections as such mean exercise of a political right. That is the meaning which will ultimately apply to the Palestinians in fulfillment of their aspirations and wishes, and we support it.

AL-HAWADITH: It is known that the Arab side rejects Shamir's idea of elections, that is elections as envisaged by Israeli Prime Minister Shamir but not as a principle. What are the circumstances under which you told the Americans you would agree to elections? Did you ask for guarantees or international supervision? Did you convey a Palestinian wish in this respect? Did you submit any Arab ideas about acceptable elections?

Al-Qasim: I have given you Jordan's view of the principle of elections. Any guarantees or agreement would be totally up to the PLO and the other side. It is up to the PLO to decide whatever it thinks reflects the rights of the Palestinian people. It is above all the concerned party authorized to accept a certain principle or idea. We support it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and their political rights. If it saw the principle of elections as part of a whole process and if it accepted that principle then our position would be one of support. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The Americans and, for different reasons, the Israelis insist that there is a central role for Jordan to play in the process from beginning to end. They want and wish Jordan to play an active part now. Did they ask you to revive your role, bearing in mind the original [Palestinian-Israeli] issue you mentioned?

Al-Qasim: His majesty the king explained more than once during this visit that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the party chosen and authorized to talk and agree to whatever serves the Palestinian people and their interests. It has the right. My role is to support that.

Jordan's role is a supportive role, and every other Arab role is the same as Jordan's, namely to support the positive Palestinian line in pursuit of a settlement based on withdrawal. Once agreement is reached in principle on Israeli withdrawal, then you would see more coordination to achieve a comprehensive solution. We would then have a new process leading to an international conference that provides the opportunity for negotiations between all the Arab sides and the other side.

There would be Palestinian-Israeli negotiation, and the Palestinian side represented by the PLO would be the only party to speak on the Palestinian item. The Jordanian side in the bilateral negotiations would talk and exercise its right to serve Jordan's interests in the Israeli-Jordanian dimension of the conflict. The same thing would apply to Syria and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Let us approach the issue from a different angle. Let us talk about the phased process. In an interview with AL-HAWADITH Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's adviser, Usamah al-Baz, talked about phased implementation of what is agreed upon, not phased negotiations. Is your view of a Palestinian-Israeli understanding or agreement with supportive roles by the other Arab states in harmony with the idea of phased implementation but not phased negotiation?

Al-Qasim: Let us take the U.S. position. President Bush and the secretary of state have said that the Israeli occupation must end. We believe that ending the Israeli occupation will be one of the advanced stages before the final settlement. Once there is a commitment to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory, you will find that all phases become interlinked and culminate in an international conference. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Let us talk about the difference between the U.S. and Arab views regarding the sequence of events. At the end of President Mubarak's visit, Al-Baz said that the U.S. Administration wanted to give priority to improvement of the atmosphere only in the hope that it would create circumstances that would compel Israel to agree to negotiate. Is this also your impression after this visit?

Al-Qasim: The U.S. position as we understand it in general terms is that they are serious about wanting to contribute to an integrated peace process. They have certain ideas which they address to the sides for a positive or negative response. Some ideas are unreasonable and unacceptable to most Arab sides. Certain points may be acceptable and may be given greater importance when we begin a wider and more serious approach to the peace process.

Shamir, for reasons of his own, has come up with the idea of elections and requested a scaling down of the intifadah. That idea is in the interest of Israel and continued occupation of territory, but the idea of elections as a principle could help the peace process and it may not lead to the results envisaged by the one who proposed it. As regards scaling down the intifadah, I cannot imagine anyone easing the intifadah while the people of the occupied territory are still under occupation. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What next? What will you take with you from Washington? You say you are optimistic. Why?

Al-Qasim: We have come here and we discussed several issues. We got a good, an excellent response from the U.S. Administration. The discussions during the visit did not focus on one particular issue. There were several, bilateral and regional, related to the Middle East, the Iraq-Iran war, Lebanon, the Arab Cooperation Council, and Jordan's concept of the region.

Unlike previous visits, we did not come here to talk about one sole issue. We have discussed issues that concern us, Jordan, such as economic aid and increase or development of certain things like training, trade, and so on. These are new things that we are developing between us and the response has been very good. There are good intentions at this point as far as aiding Jordan is concerned.

Cease-Fire Observed; Traffic Flows Normally

NC2804110189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] It seems that the cease-fire has gone into effect in accordance with the decision made by the Arab foreign ministers' council last night. There have been no incidents violating the cease-fire, according to security reports.

Meanwhile, the crossing point between the Museum and al-Barbir has been reopened in both directions for cars and pedestrians. Traffic there currently appears to be normal.

Arab League Agrees on 28 Apr Cease-Fire

NC2704145289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1443 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Dear listeners, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi foreign minister and chairman of the current session of the Arab League Council, has announced that the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers has reached agreement on declaring a cease-fire in all Lebanese areas as of 1200 tomorrow.

'Aziz said that the observers whom the Arab foreign ministers have agreed to send to Lebanon will arrive later. We will supply you with further details in due course.

Further on Decision

NC2704153089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] An official source in Tunis has stated that the Arab League Council of Ministers announced a decision today providing for a cease-fire in Lebanon as of noon tomorrow, Friday, and for the dispatch of an Arab observers force as soon as possible, to monitor the truce.

The same source added that the Council of Ministers decided this following a special session devoted to Lebanon. The announcement, which was made after the session, does not specify how many officers will constitute the observer force. The statement asserts that they must arrive in Lebanon without delay to monitor the cease-fire.

The source went on to say that the council has reached another decision providing for lifting all blockades on all naval, air, and land utilities and for opening all crossing points.

'Awn Accepts Cease-Fire

LD2804091889 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Beirut, 28 Apr (KUNA)—The army commanded by the chairman of the military government, General Michel 'Awn, has announced that it will abide by the decision of the Arab League ministerial council in Tunis. The communique, which was issued this morning by the Army Command, states:

"In implementation of the Arab League ministerial council's decision, the army command has decided: —To cease fire; —To open all crossing checkpoints."

The communique added: "This decision is effective as of 28 April at 1230."

Al-Huss Welcomes Cease-Fire

NC2704194489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has welcomed the Arab League's call for a cease-fire in Lebanon. He expressed his readiness to put the cease-fire decision into practical effect.

Al-Huss expressed his hope that the decision will serve as a starting point for measures in the near future which will help the Lebanese solve their problems in a radical way, as he put it.

'Text' of League Decision

NC2704205789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Excerpts] As had been expected, the Arab League Council of Ministers has issued decisions of a security nature, putting off the announcement of its concept of a political solution to the Lebanese problem. [passage omitted]

The text of the decision follows.

The Arab League Council of Minister has decided:

1. As of noon tomorrow, Friday, a cease-fire is to go into effect. At the same time, the blockade imposed on all sea, land, and air utilities is to be lifted; all crossing points are to be opened for 3 months; and the representatives of the chairman of the six-man Arab committee and the Arab League secretary general are to be entrusted with the task of finding a final and lasting resolution of this issue, in cooperation with the Lebanese parties concerned.

A team is to be formed comprising representatives of the countries participating in the six-man committee to observe the cease-fire in Lebanon. Acting in accordance with the rules of the Arab League and under the direct supervision of the Arab League secretary general, the team will deploy along the combat lines to monitor the cease-fire, the lifting of the port blockade, and the reopening of crossing points between the two sectors of the capital, in order to prevent their closure and determine the party responsible for any violation.

Observer teams will arrive without delay to perform their missions, so that the chances of stabilizing the cease-fire may be enhanced.

The proposals of the six-man committee regarding the formation of the observer team have been approved, and the team granted the necessary authority to carry out the mission. The team will be commanded by a representative of the state which chairs the Arab ministerial good offices committee entrusted with the task of tackling the crisis. The mandate of the observers team will be for 3 months.

The states represented in the committee will undertake to form this team and pay for its expenses for 3 months, provided that the required sum be paid in accordance with a budget to be agreed upon by the team commander and the representatives of the committee chairman and the Arab League secretary general.

2. The Arab League council calls on the UN Security Council and its permanent member states to shoulder their responsibility to implement Resolution 425 on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territories.

3. The council notes with satisfaction the efforts being made by the six-man Arab committee in connection with its mission, and urges the committee to intensify efforts to stabilize the cease-fire and contribute effectively to solving the Lebanese crisis.

4. The council notes with satisfaction the general support for the efforts which are being made by the Arab League six-man committee, and regards it as an international acknowledgement of the efforts of the League, which is the natural platform for resolving the Lebanese crisis.

5. The Council appeals to the Lebanese parties to cooperate fully with the Arab observer team which has been approved by the council during its emergency session, in order to help it to succeed in its mission to bring about a stable cease-fire which will enable the committee to continue the task entrusted to it by the council.

Kuwaiti To Command Observers

NC2704183589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Excerpts] An official source in Tunis has stated that the Arab League Council of Ministers issued several decisions on Lebanon today. The source said that the council announced a cease-fire in Lebanon and the dispatch of an Arab observer force to monitor the truce for 3 months. [passage omitted]

A statement issued following the council's session does not specify how many officers will constitute the observer force. The statement asserts that they must arrive in Lebanon without delay to monitor the cease-fire. The same source added that the council has also decided that all blockades on naval, air, and land utilities must be lifted and all crossing points opened.

This statement followed the special session of the league's Council of Ministers. The council charged Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the Arab good offices committee and representative of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, to find a firm and durable solution to the Lebanese problem in cooperation with the Lebanese parties concerned.

Tariq 'Aziz, chairman of the League's Council of Ministers and Iraqi foreign minister, said that the Arab observers team will be formed as soon as possible. He added: It is necessary to point out that, unlike the United Nations, the League does not have such a team available and it is necessary to form one.

After the council's 4-hour meeting, 'Aziz added that the Lebanese parties, or rather all the parties concerned, will be informed of the cease-fire decision and must abide by it. It was also announced that the first budget for the observers force will amount to $3 million and that all 21 members of the Arab League will contribute. He said that the force will fly the flag of the Arab League and will be commanded by a Kuwaiti national. [passage omitted]

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE had earlier pointed out that if the Arab League finally reaches an agreement on the security aspect of the proposals of the good offices committee, then the discussion of the political aspect of these proposals is likely to be postponed to give time for the cease-fire to be consolidated.

Decision Termed 'Feeble'

NC2704185889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Excerpts] After 45 days of tragedy on the local scene and 2 days of meetings in Tunis to remedy it, the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers and the state of expectancy have ended. At approximately 1630 today, the Arab league Council announced a decision providing for a cease-fire in Lebanon that will go into force as of noon tomorrow, and for the dispatch of an unspecified number of Arab observers to Lebanon without delay to supervise the cease-fire.

The decision also provides for lifting all blockades on all naval, air, and land facilities, for opening all crossing points, and for instructing representatives of the chairman of the Arab committee and the Arab League secretary general to seek a stable and final solution to this question in coperation with the Lebanese parties concerned. [passage omitted]

Political sources have commented on the Arab League statement and described its decisions as feeble given the serious situation in Lebanon which the citizens are suffering and the massacres and destruction of property, vital facilities, and humanitarian institutions which the Syrian occupation forces are perpetrating.

The sources wonder whether these decisions were adopted merely to freeze the Lebanese situation and restore it to that which prevailed before 14 March, and whether these decisions consecrate the fait accompli, without any alternation.

The sources pointed out that the statement deals only with the current security crisis and makes no reference to the political question. The sources remarked that all the political proposals that the Arab committee has put forward in connection with the political question have been set aside and their discussion has been postponed to a later stage.

They also noted that priority has been given to the flare-up of the security situation, the causes of which were basically the political problems which have been the source of the security flare-ups throughout the war years. The sources said that the security situation has never been the cause of the political problems.

According to the same sources, it can be seen that the statement took into account the Syrian view. This stresses that the cease-fire must be linked to the removal of the causes which led up to it; that is, the naval blockade, the naval operations room, and the abolition of the security committee. The sources pointed out that the Arab League statement has ignored the Lebanese Government's demand for a Syrian withdrawal.

The sources concluded: How effective will the cease-fire be? Is the decision to send observers to consolidate the cease-fire without a political basis sufficient to end the battles? What are the prospects for referring the Lebanese file to an Arab summit conference that will deal with the main issues, such as the Syrian occupation? What will the UN role be despite the rejection of internationalization by the party submerged in the Syrian current? Time will tell.

'Awn Cabinet Comments

NC2704221889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The cabinet stressed tonight that the fighting in Lebanon, particularly the recent outbreak, which led to the establishment of the Arab good offices committee, has never been and never will be inter-Lebanese. Had this fighting not been between the Lebanese and the Syrians, the Arab League foreign ministers would not have convened to remedy it.

In a statement issued tonight following an emergency session held to discuss the recommendations issued by the Arab League foreign ministers in Tunis, the cabinet noted that Lebanon is very concerned about salvaging Arab solidarity. However, it is more concerned about salvaging itself and liberating its land from Syrian and Israeli occupation. It is among the first requirements of the Arab League charter not to permit any of its member states to violate this charter, whether by occupying the land, disrupting order, or intervening in the domestic affairs of any other member state.

In its statement, the cabinet voiced the hope that the Arab League would follow up on its efforts to resolve the fundamental problem; namely, the Syrian occupation presence in Lebanon. The cabinet described the dispatch of Arab observers as a timid step in the right direction toward removing Syrian hegemony from Lebanon.

The statement emphasized that the attainment of internal reforms and national conciliation will be the inevitable result of ending the Syrian and Israeli occupations. At any rate, it will not come before this, the statement said.

The cabinet welcomed the decision to lift the blockade of the legal ports, which have been under siege by the Syrian troops. It called on shipping firms to direct their ships to the legal ports in Tripoli, Beirut, Juniyah, Sidon, and Tyre, provided they observe international and Lebanese laws and regulations. Otherwise, the cabinet said, they would be held accountable.

The cabinet announced that Beirut International Airport will be opened effective 1200 tomorrow, Friday. The cabinet also welcomed the Arab foreign ministers' call to the Security Council to implement Resolution 425. The cabinet charged Acting Foreign Minister General Michel 'Awn to take the necessary steps to call for a meeting of the Security Council, so that an appropriate mechanism may be decided upon for implementing the resolution, as well as the other resolutions calling for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armies from Lebanon.

In conclusion, the cabinet welcomed the dispatch of Arab observers to oversee the cease-fire between the Lebanese and Syrian Armies.

'Awn Asserts 'Liberation Battle' Continues

NC2704182589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn asserted today that the liberation battle is continuing and that it is being waged by the Lebanese themselves, in their own interests and not in any external interests. Gen 'Awn said that it is possible to be lenient and forgiving regarding certain matters.

He added: However, I cannot see how, where, and to what extent one can be forgiving regarding the sacred issues of sovereignty, freedom, and independence. It is not possible to tolerate incomplete sovereignty, freedom, or independence.

AL-QABAS Cited on Syrian, 'Awn Demands

NC2704133689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Western diplomatic sources revealed to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today that Washington is trying to achieve a reconciliation between Damascus and Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn. AL-QABAS adds that this U.S. effort was started by U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian. The paper summed up the Syrian demands as follows: 1. That the Lebanese problem be resolved by political, not military means. 2. That a commitment to constitutional reforms be made. 3. That the blockade on illegal ports be lifted.

AL-QABAS notes that U.S. Ambassador in Beirut John McCarthy has conveyed these proposals to General 'Awn, who told the ambassador the following: 1. Syria must officially commit itself to withdrawing its forces from Lebanon before it is approached. It must communicate this commitment to the Arab League, and this commitment must be accompanied by starting to withdraw the Syrian forces. 2. Lifting the blockade on illegal ports in Lebanon is rejected.

AL-QABAS notes that General 'Awn has welcomed the dispatch of Arab observers to Lebanon to consolidate the cease-fire, provided that this step constitutes part of an Arab plan to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Amal, Hizballah Factions Fight 27 Apr

NC2704210089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Fighting between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in Rawdat al-Shahidayn and the Shatila circle [in West Beirut] resumed at 2140 tonight. The sound of rockets and gunfire is heard intermittently. The clashes spread in the course of the evening to Al-Hamra', Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, and Hayy al-Luja.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, two Amal officials were wounded in the fighting. Their condition is serious and they have been taken from Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq to the American University Hospital.

Syrians 'Contain' Dispute

NC2804065989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The Syrian forces have managed to contain a security problem which erupted between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq last night.

Hizballah Members Kidnapped

NC2804072689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Security sources have reported that Syrian intelligence men and Amal members have stormed areas in Al-Hamra', Zuqaq al-Balat, Al-Bastah, and Verdun and have kidnapped a number of Hizballah members accusing them of spreading confusion and disturbing security in the areas.

Despite the swift contacts made by Hizballah officials, the Syrian command declined to respond or reveal the whereabouts of the kidnapped persons.

Sources Cited on Syrian Plan for Amal, Hizballah

NC2704191489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] According to reliable security sources, the Syrians have told the Ba'thists in Lebanon and members of the Al-Asad battalion, the Amal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party that they should gradually ferment the situation along the traditional contact line extending from the Normandie area to the Science College, so as to depict the ongoing fighting as inter-Lebanese.

The Syrians also said that Hizballah members in the Hayy al-Luja, Al-Ghandaq al-Ghamiq, and Zuqaq al-Balat areas should be confronted, claiming that Hizballah had taken advantage of the fighting between the Lebanese and Syrian Armies to bring in reinforcements to strengthen its military capability, at the request of the Iranians. In this respect, secret meetings took place at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut that were attended by senior Hizballah officials.

The same sources add that the Syrians intend to revive the fighting along the contact line on the one hand and the Amal-Hizballah clashes in West Beirut on the other. They also want to restore the security situation to what it was before the latest Syrian military entry into West Beirut.

The sources revealed that the reason for the new Syrian plan is Damascus' opposition to the deployment of the Arab observers, who are expected to arrive in Lebanon before 10 May [as heard], beyond the military axis of the contact lines between the Normandie area and the Science College in Al-Shuwayfat. The Syrians also do not want to give room for the observers to deploy in Ra's Bayrut, Al-Rawshah, the airport and its vicinity, Khaldah, Al-Awza'i, the mountain area, Al-Biqa' valley, and upper Al-Matn, where the emplacements of the Syrian heavy artillery are located.

Iranian Embassy Denies Reinforcement Plans

NC2704182389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Beirut today categorically denied reports that Iran intends to bring military reinforcements into Lebanon. The embassy stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has worked, and still is working, to alleviate the ordeal of the Lebanese people, and that it is in constant contact with the Lebanese Government for this purpose.

Soviet Ambassador Visits Salim al-Huss

NC2704133489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Vailiy Kolotusha visited Prime Minister Dr Dalim al-Huss today. After the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said: I visited Prime Minister al-Huss to listen to his assessment of the current situation in Lebanon and future possibilities in light of the resolutions to be adopted by the Arab League council.

Responding to a question, the Soviet ambassador emphasized his country's official stand encourages Arab endeavors. He expressed hope that the resolutions to be adopted by the Arab ministerial council will contribute to finding ways out of the difficult situation in Lebanon.

Ambassador Kolutusha said: During the past few weeks, the situation in Lebanon took a dangerous turn with regard to Lebanon's future as a state and an entity and also regarding its effect on the regional situation. Therefore, the Soviet foreign ministry has issued a statement explicitly and resolutely expressing our concern about what is now happening in Lebanon.

Ambassador Kolotusha added: The Soviet Union desires that practical solutions to the Middle East crisis be found expeditiously. In light of the Soviet foreign minister's tour of the region, an agreement was reached with the states concerned to continue consultations through competent experts.

The Soviet envoy, who is now visiting the region, is holding such consultations ink light of the agreement reached between the Soviet foreign minister and some of the states he visited during his recent tour.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' on Crisis in Lebanon

JN2704170389 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Apr 89 p 19

["Details" of interview held with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by 'Abd al-Karim Ya'qub in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Text] [Ya'qub] What is Syria's viewpoint concerning what has been so far accomplished by the six-member Arab committee with the aim of resolving the Lebanese crisis? Would you approve of the committee's report if that report calls for the dispatch of Arab observers to ensure the maintenance of the cease-fire?

[Al-Shar'] As we have always affirmed, we in Syria appreciate the great efforts exerted by the six-member committee under Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. We also believe that the statements which have been issued by the committee so far, appealing to the Lebanese parties to cease fire, lift blockades, and revive meetings of the security committee among the concerned parties in Beirut, are statements which should have been respected and implemented.

However, it has become clear that the nationalist and Islamic forces have responded favorably to these statements, while Michel 'Awn has so far failed to commit himself to them.

Consequently, we believe that the committee in general and the Arab League Council in particular must hold Michel 'Awn fully responsible for the destruction and severe damage caused to innocent civilians in Lebanon and to their property by his failure to commit himself to these statements.

[Ya'qub] What is your opinion on the dispatch of Arab observers [to Lebanon]?

[Al-Shar'] We will study all proposals.

[Ya'qub] Have you received anything on this? Or have you received the full report to be submitted by the committee on this issue?

[Al-Shar'] No, we have not received anything or any specific proposals. Hence, we will study all proposals.

[Ya'qub] Will you attend the forthcoming Arab League Council meeting?

[Al-Shar'] Of course, of course. We will study all the proposals that will be submitted to the Arab League Council, whether these reports will be submitted by the six-member committee or by the Arab League Council itself. The resolutions that would help implement the previous committee decision on effecting a cease-fire, lifting the blockades, and the initiation of a dialogue among the concerned Lebanese parties will be adopted. The reference here is to a dialogue that would lead to the launching of a national dialogue [as published] and the realization of the political reforms needed by Lebanon—the reforms which constitute for the Lebanese a suitable framework for reunifying their country and safeguarding Lebanon's Arabism and independence.

[Ya'qub] Am I to understand from this that Syria has no reservations on the idea of dispatching Arab observers to Lebanon?

[Al-Shar'] We have not so far studied this issue. Besides, this issue has not been raised. We in Syria support any positive proposal that might help the Lebanese end the anamolous Lebanese situation and restore Lebanon's health.

[Ya'qub] This is a question of a different nature. Is it true that Syria has recently begun contacts with the administration of President Bush?

[Al-Shar'] Contacts in this regard between Syria and other world states, especially the states which are interested in the Lebanese situation have been continuous.

[Ya'qub] Can we say that Syria has managed to prevent the internationalization of the crisis?

[Al-Shar'] Yes, of course. The internationalization of the crisis would not have served the interests of Lebanon and those of the Lebanese people. The internationalization of the Lebanese crisis means that this crisis would be linked to the Middle East conflict which has been festering for several decades.

Besides, the internationalization might lead to the partitioning of Lebanon, and consequently to conferring a sort of international legitimacy on this partitioning. The Lebanese and the Arabs, all Arabs, must beware of this.

As a matter of fact, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad issued a statement 2 days ago rejecting the internationalization idea, as it does not serve Lebanese interests. Besides, this idea would be detrimental to Lebanon's Arabism and independence.

[Ya'qub] Will U.S. envoys arrive in Damascus shortly?

[Al-Shar'] I do not have any information on this. (He then laughed.)

[Ya'qub] What is the state of Syrian-Kuwaiti relations?

[Al-Shar'] Brotherly and good, and we are happy with the way they are developing. The two countries and their officials maintain ties of amity and mutual respect.

[Ya'qub] Do the support funds arrive to Syria on time, especially from Kuwait?

[Al-Shar'] This is an unfortunate topic which we do not wish to discuss in the media. All we would like to say is that certain Arab states have failed to fully abide by Arab summit resolutions on support for the frontline countries.

[Ya'qub] Suppose agreement was reached on a compromise president for Lebanon, would Syria still stick to Mikhail al-Dahir's candidacy?

[Al-Shar'] Lebanon's recent developments are of interest to all the Arabs. Joint and considerable efforts are required to end the fighting and drive home to Michel 'Awn that he is to be held responsible for what has happened to Lebanon.

Our Arab brothers must speak out against the crimes committed by Michel 'Awn and his supporters as well as the hostile media that is premised on a crusader effort proceeding from Lebanon and capitalizing on the Lebanese situation to hurt the Arabs.

[Ya'qub] Is this a Syrian demand?

[Al-Shar'] Everyone knows that, supported by some Western circles and Israel, Michel 'Awn has caused destruction to and tribulation for Lebanon with the result that there has been a large exodus of Christians from the country.

The recent Bkirki meeting and the statement issued afterwards has demonstrated that Michel 'Awn is isolated in the Eastern district and that he represents only a handful of fanatic and obsessed Maronites who are turning their back on Arabism.

The Maronite majority and the overwhelming majority of the Christians fault 'Awn's recklessness that has brought Lebanon ruin and destruction.

Following the unfair French campaign regarding the developments, the western sector of Beirut, the nationalist side that is, has sustained a more extensive destruction than the eastern side. This is another indication of 'Awn's responsibility for the crisis.

[Ya'qub] What do you think of the next Arab summit and reconciliation with the PLO and Egypt and the Arab Cooperation Council?

[Al-Shar'] You have raised rather complex issues and you see I am pressed for time since I must leave the hotel and travel. Maybe some other time I can discuss these subjects. I would, however, like to emphasize as I always have, that for Syria Arab solidarity is a priority.

Talks Conclude With Polish Officials 27 Apr

JN2704211589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] A final session of talks was held today at the headquarters of the National Progressive Front [NPF] between the NPF delegation led by Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and NPF vice chairman, and Jan Dobraczynski, head of the delegation of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth in Poland. The Polish ambassador in Damascus attended the session.

Discussion of subjects related to political developments in the regional and international arenas was completed during the session. Both parties' role in the process of reconstruction and development in the two countries and the fulfillment of their peoples' objectives were also discussed. Viewpoints were identical on all topics.

Comrade Jan Dobraczynski, head of the Polish delegation, said he has formed positive impressions of and expressed his great appreciation for the great achievements, development, and progress witnessed in Syria, as well as for Syria's major and important role on the regional and international level under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

He asserted his country's stand in support of the just struggle waged by Syria and the Arab masses to liberate the occupied Arab territories and restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Afghanistan

'At Least 60' Rockets Fired on Kabul 27 Apr

BK2704144089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1422 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 27 (AFP)—Mujahidin gunners Thursday fired at least 60 rockets into Kabul, killing at least 16 civilians as the Soviet-backed government here celebrated the 11th anniversary of the communist revolution in Afghanistan. The attacks, which started at 6.30 a.m. (0200 GMT), were continuing by nightfall. By 4.30 p.m. (1200 GMT), 54 rockets had hit the city, leaving 16 people dead and 54 wounded, a government spokesman said.

Speaking as the sound of incoming rockets reverberated through the briefing hall in the Foreign Ministry, the spokesman said no major military or economic target had been hit.

"Only innocent civilians," he said. The spokesman said the rockets had landed in all parts of the capital—north, south and centre—and said the government was powerless to stop them because they were fired from hilltops surrounding Kabul. Some of the rockets were fitted with timing devices, he added.

Three rockets were seen exploding only several hundred meters from the city's Intercontinental Hotel, where several delegates to the anniversary celebrations are housed. None of the rockets hit the hotel. An AFP photographer who rushed out of the hotel to some mud houses where two of the rockets fell said he saw a boy and girl lying dead in an alleyway behind a mosque. He quoted residents as shouting: "Why can't the government defend us against this?"

By late afternoon, none of the rockets appeared to have landed near the presidential compound where President Najibullah delivered an hour-long speech commemorating the anniversary to a select audience of some 800. Most of the international delegates to the celebrations came from East Bloc countries.

Earlier in the day, journalists said one rocket had landed near a grandstand where Mr Najibullah reviewed a military parade Wednesday. The parade was held a day early to avoid what security sources here had said was "sure information" that the mujahidin would stage a major sabotage to disrupt the proceedings.

Another rocket fired Thursday fell some four kilometers from the heavily guarded Soviet Embassy compound, which was hit by a rocket last week.

After the last attack, when a rocket landed inside the compound housing the last 250 Soviet citizens in Afghanistan, Soviet Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov had warned of "dire consequences" if the embassy or any Soviet citizen were harmed.

Other buildings hit Thursday included a high school and a mosque.

Thursday's attack was the worst since September and October, when the mujahidin began raining rockets on the Afghan capital from surrounding hills, residents said.

The mujahidin had given advance warnings about Thursday's attacks in a "night letter," or written warnings, circulated hand-to-hand around the city, sources here said. The warnings were one of the reasons many Kabul civilians had stayed home and streets were deserted in the centre of the city Thursday, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the government spokesman announced that government forces had seized about 7,000 anti-aircraft guns and two kilograms of explosives from the outer suburbs of Baghram early Thursday. Another 30 kilograms of the latest type of plastic explosives made in New York were seized Tuesday from near the reviewing stand where Mr Najibullah had stood Wednesday, the spokesman added.

CPSU Telegram Marks Revolution Anniversary

LD2704141889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium sent the following telegram to Kabul on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the April Revolution addressed to esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee:

On behalf of the Soviet leadership and people we congratulate you and the people of Afghanistan on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the April Revolution. This year the anniversary of the April Revolution is being marked under new circumstances. Afghanistan is experiencing difficult days in its centuries-long sensitive history.

Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan within the specific time in accordance with the Geneva agreements. The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan is taking constructive measures one after the other to end the bloodshed and reach national accord among the Afghans.

However, the continued interference from abroad, which we resolutely denounce, does not let the people of Afghanistan restore peace and stability in accordance with their wishes. The Soviet Union resolutely supports the just struggle of the people of Afghanistan for national reconciliation and the consolidation of a durable peace in the whole country.

Wishing you success in the difficult struggle for the country.

Cargo Transport Agreement Signed With USSR

LD2704082189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 27 Apr 89

[TEXT] Kabul, April 26, BAKHTAR—The Governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union signed an agreement here on gratis aid in cargo haulage from Port Hayratan to Kabul on Tuesday. Under the agreement, the Soviet side will turn over gratis 500 Kamas trucks and the necessary spare parts to them to the mixed Afghan-Soviet Transport-and-Delivery Joint-Stock Society, AFSOTR.

The agreement was signed by Afghan Minister of Commerce Burhanuddin Ghiasi and Minister of Motor Transport of the Russian Federation Yuriy Sukhin.

On the same day the Soviet delegation met Afghan ministers of commerce, transport, and civil aviation and discussed the development and expansion of economic and technological cooperation between the two countries.

Najibullah Receives Polish Vice Premier

LD2804034789 Warsaw PAP in English 1455 GMT 27 Apr 89

[By PAP special correspondent Krzysztof Mroziewicz]

[Text] Kabul, April 27 PAP—Polish Vice-Premier Janusz Patorski, who has been staying here in connection with celebrations of the 11th anniversary of the April revolution, was received by Afghan President Najibullah and chairman of the Government Executive Committee Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand.

Afghanistan's president stressed that his government activities basically aimed at reaching national reconciliation but stated that imposed struggle would meet with the counteraction.

Patorski said that Poland supported the idea of autonomously solving problems by the Afghan nation. He expressed firm support for the policy of national reconciliation, negotiated solutions, internal dialogue and full realization of the Geneva accords on the settlement of the conflict around Afghanistan.

Keshtmand voiced his interest in continuation of mutually advantageous economic cooperation.

Talks with Afghan Vice-Premier Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin focused on details of economic cooperation and on more active participation of the cooperative and private sectors in trade with Poland.

Najibullah Receives Messages From Cuba, USSR

LD2804062489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 27, (BAKHTAR)—Congratulatory messages addressed to Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC [Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee] have arrived here on the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of the April revolution.

While the messages congratulate President Najibullah, the Central Committee of the PDPA and people of Afghanistan on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the April revolution they wish further successes for the people of Afghanistan in the realization of the humanistic objectives of the national reconciliation as well as achieving nation-wide peace and security in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The messages were sent to Kabul on behalf of Fidel Castro Ruz, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the State Council of Cuba, 'Abdul Wali Khan, chairman of the Awami National Party of Pakistan, Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR as well as the Women's Union of Czechoslovakia.

UN Notified of Pakistani 'Violations' 435-436

LD2704080989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 26, BAKHTAR—Notices number 435th and 436th of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Tuesday.

Precise information on Pakistani violations especially paras 3 and 4, Article 2, Document number 1 of the said are provided to the mission.

The notices asks UNGOMAP That as per para 7, Document number 4 of the Geneva accords assess the violations.

Shi'ite Rebel Alliance Denies Talks With Kabul

LD2704134489 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Teheran, April 27, IRNA—'Alijan Zahedi, a spokesman of the eight-party Afghan coalition in Tehran, today disclaimed reports indicating talks between the party and the government in Kabul. He said the coalition has never approached any representative of the ruling government in Afghanistan in any country, and that it will not do so under any circumstances in the future.

Elsewhere the coalition's spokesman lauded Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yagub Khan for having said that his country's recognition of the provisional government in Afghanistan would be pending membership in that government by the eight-party coalition.

He said the ruling Marxist regime in Afghanistan is responsible for the killing of at least 1.5 million people and for devastating hundreds of towns and villages throughout that country, and noted that a government with such records of conduct with [its] own civilians at home is not acceptable by the Afghans.

The spokesman of the Afghan coalition also rejected the formulas of the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in relation with Afghanistan as "useless efforts".

Mujahidin Attack KHAD Office in Qandahar City

LD2704134189 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 27, IRNA—Kabul regime's local Army commander Ubay Dullah along with 600 of his men surendered to the mujahidin last Thursday [20 April] in Grishk District of Helmand Province.

The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY reported that 1,200 different kinds of weapons and 32 military vehicles, were also captured by the mujahidin.

According to ANA's report from Qandahar Province the mujahidin repulsed the regime's Jowzani battalion's attack on their positions around Qandahar airfield. The mujahidin ambush resulted in 15 Marxists being killed. The mujahidin took the Qandahar airfield under fire of artillery guns.

In related news the Afghan mujahidin attacked the KHAD central office in Qandahar city killing 14 intelligence personnel and wounding 8 others on 24th April.

Decree Grants Armed Forces Promotions, Pardons

LD2604112389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] On the privileges of officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers, and regarding the pardon of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan's penalized officers on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the April Revolution:

The 11th anniversary of the April Revolution is being held while the heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan bravely defend the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country against the violation and military interventions of Pakistani militarists and the extremists under their protection.

In appreciation of the gallant activities of officers and noncommissioned officers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the April Revolution, the following measures are being approved in line with paragraphs 6 and 8 of Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

1. The granting of one year's seniority in promotion and pensions to all officers, noncommissioned officers, and sergeants of the Armed Forces [as heard] starting 28 April 1989.

2. The granting of the first rank of commissioned officers, third lieutenants, noncommissioned officers and sergeants of the Armed Forces who have served at least 3 years or more. The arrears of salaries of this category are payable until their salaries are increased and standardized within military rank salaries.

3. The granting of promotions to higher ranks of the Armed Forces officers from third lieutenant to colonel, those entitled to promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel regardless of the number of vacancies, provided the necessary limit of service has been completed by 28 April 1989 and a favorable report obtained.

4. The granting of the rank and pensions of generals to lieutenant colonels who served in the position of generals and martyrs in frontal fighting with the enemy.

5. The granting of 30 percent of the difference in salary to those with the rank of general to lieutenant colonels who have actively served for 3 years or more in the rank of lieutenant colonel and have obtained a favorable report.

6. The granting of 20 percent of the difference in salary to those with the ranks of general to noncombatant lieutenant colonels who have served for 4 years in this rank and have obtained a favorable report.

7. The granting of medals for the defense of the motherland to soldiers who have been wounded or disabled in combat duties after 16 February 1989.

8. The suspension of the remaining prison term of members of the Armed Forces who have been sentenced to imprisonment for deserting their contingent and are still in detention, provided they have not dispensed with the weapons in their possesion, in line with Paragraph 1, Article 7 of the Military Penal Law.

9. The suspension of prison terms of members of the Armed Forces who deserted their units and have somehow evaded prosecution and the execution of justice, provided they have not dispensed with their weapons and combat vehicles, and if they return to their units by 21 June in accordance with Paragraph 1, Article 8 of the Military Penal Law.

10. This decree is applicable from 28 April 1989.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Aghanistan.

Bangladesh

176 Killed, 'Hundreds' Injured in 26 Apr Tornado

BK2704142289 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1330 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Excerpts] President Ershad has directed the authorities to launch massive relief and rescue operations in the tornado-affected areas of Manikganj District. At least 176 persons were killed and hundreds of people were injured in the tornado that hit yesterday evening. The president rushed to Saturia Subdistrict this morning to inspect tornado-damaged areas.

The tornado has reduced to ruins several villages and subdistrict headquarters. It left a trail of massive destruction in Saturia, Dhala, Hargaz Tili, and Jannat Union in Saturia Subdistrict, in Jagir and Gorpara Union in Sadar Subdistrict, and in several areas of Daulatpur Subdistrict. The tornado smashed the roofs of concrete houses and food grain warehouses, while mud houses were blown away like pieces of paper. The storm also uprooted electrical poles.

The district administration and Army units stationed in those areas transported the injured to the hospitals last night and many people are being treated at temporary medical centers set up by the Army. President Ershad visited one of these centers and saw the condition of injured people there. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Health and Family Planning Ministry has appealed to the people to donate blood for the treatment of persons seriously injured in the tornado. People willing to donate blood have been requested to contact Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Tongi Hospital, Manikganj Sadar Hospital, Sandhani of Dhaka, and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's blood donation center.

Soviet Barter Trade Contract Signed 25 Apr

BK2504155489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1 530 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] Bangladesh is to import 50,000 tons of high speed diesel worth 30 crore taka from the Soviet Union under barter during the current year. The contract to this effect was signed in Dhaka between the Petroleum Corporation and the local Soviet trade office.

The Soviet Union in exchange will buy jute and jute goods for the amount from Bangladesh during the same period.

Hasina Speaks on Political Situation, Elections

BK2704133889 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Apr 89 pp 1, 10

[Text] Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina has prescribed the need for a sound political process towards restoring democratic norms to tide over the country's political statement.

"Restoration of a healthy political trend and democratic values can save the nation from impending disaster", she told UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH (UNB) in an exclusive interview on the eve of a month-long tour abroad.

She left Dhaka on Tuesday for Amsterdam, Holland, on the first leg of her travels, described as "private" in Europe and the United States.

Hasina who is also leader of the opposition eight-party alliance said, "Pseudo-democracy, denial of voting rights and change of power at gunpoint marked the era of the post-1975 regimes, plunging the nation into a deep politial crisis".

Successive groups of power-mongers ambitious people in collaboration with "killers and conspirators" had destroyed politics, economy and values of hard-earned independence in a planned way, she said in a vitriolic attack on the regimes that came to power after 1975.

She alleged that a handful of vested interests had been perpetrating dictatorial rule in the country ever since the Awami League government fell with the killing of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina said Awami League had been fighting ceaselessly for restoration of democratic principles, spirit of the Liberation War and for economic emancipation of the toiling masses to put an end to "politics of killings, coup and conspiracy".

She harped on her oft-quoted phrase: It's ballot, not bullet and bloodshed that should be the means of transferring power. A healthy political process is a must for democracy and development.

The Awami League leader alleged that persisting political unrest and uncertainty, hunger and poverty had virtually thrown the entire nation into darkness.

Hasina said those who grabbed power after 1975 did not initiate any pragmatic and constructive steps to build the nation and improve the lot of the common man. On the contrary, she added, "those power-mongers have engaged themselves in making their own fortunes".

About her alliance's much-publicised 7-point programme, she said it was nothing but a politico-economic and social programme aimed at salvaging the nation from the present crisis and ensuring emancipation of the masses.

The 7-point programme, announced by the eight-party alliance in June last year, includes among other issues, restoration of the values of the liberation war, trial of the killers of the Bangbandhu, restoration of the 1972 Constitution and parliamentary form of government, independence of the judiciary and healthy growth of the public, private and cooperative sectors.

Hasina claimed that people across the country had extended their unflinching support to the programme which, she said, should form the basis for future mass movement to topple the present regime to pave the way for restoration of democracy and representative government.

She expressed her firm conviction that the present socio-political crisis facing the nation could be overcome with massive popular support. "My strength is my party, politics and the people", she said.

Hasina, commenting on the possibility of holding a neutral election said, "polls could be free and fair when each and every electorate would be given the guarantee to exercise franchise freely and independently".

When her attention was drawn to President Ershad's recent offer for dialogue, the suggestions for inviting foreign observers and reorganisation of the Election Commission to ensure impartial polls that could be participated by all political parties, Hasina said that in the parliamentary elections of 1986 people had voted for the Awami League but the polls were rigged and the results manipulated. That was why, she said, people didn't turn up at all at the 1988 election which her party and alliance boycotted.

Hasina observed that the government's latest offer to hold another election was nothing but a ploy to consolidate further its power and secure a semblance of credibility for the regime at home and abroad.

Asked about her party's stand on the future elections, she in turn, questioned why should people be bluffed again in the name of election when the governing party was reportedly hatching a conspiracy to share power with "some blessed opposition quarters well in advance of the polls."

Replying to a question about her tour of Europe and the States, the Awami League chief said, "it is a private visit".

But press reports said Sheikh Hasina is likely to conduct organisational activities among expatriate Bangladeshis and expected to meet some government and opposition leaders during her foray abroad.

India

Ballistic Missile Test Rescheduled for 1 May

BK2704112089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 27 May 89

[Text] New Delhi, April 27 (AFP)—India will again try to launch its first ballistic missile on May 1 after aborting the blast-off four times this month, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Thursday.

India's intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM), called Agni (fire), is scheduled to be launched between 6:00 a.m. (0030 GMT) and 3:00 p.m. (0900 GMT) on May 1 from the Chandipur area, 150 kilometres south-west from Calcutta, PTI said.

Technical snags that led to the postponement of Agni's launch four times since April 20 have been rectified and the missile is ready for the trial, the news agency quoted official sources at the launch pad as saying.

The missile, which has a range of 2,500 kilometres, is targeted to land in the Bay of Bengal between Sri Lanka and India's Andaman group of islands.

PTI said administrators of eastern Orissa state had warned civilians living near the launch site that Agni's blast-off was now scheduled during the first two weeks of May.

Missile experts postponed Agni's launch during the last moments of a final countdown on April 20 following technical snags believed to be in the IRBM's ignition systems.

The test fire was cancelled three more times in as many subsequent days because of unspecified reasons amid rumours that anti-missile protesters had sabotaged power cables to the launch pad.

Resistance from some 10,000 villagers had scuttled Agni's launch in the past because of fears that it could lead to destruction of homes and crops.

The Indian Government says it would pay 80 rupees (five dollars) to each of the farmers who are asked to temporarily abandon their home and lands at the time of Agni's launch, but most Chandipur residents have rejected the offer.

Sedition Cases Against Sikh Leaders Withdrawn

BK2804033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has said that his administration is taking several measures to boost the confidence of the people. Addressing a meet-the-press program in New Delhi, he said grievances committees are being formed to look into the genuine complaints of the people.

The governor said that as part of the package program announced by the prime minister, 437 cases of sedition are being withdrawn. Among these are cases against Mr Darshan Singh, Mr Baba Joginder Singh, Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi, and Mr Amrinder Singh.

Expressing his determination to root out terrorism, the governor said out of 217 police station areas, only 35 are now vulnerable to terrorist activities.

Three hard-core terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Amritsar District yesterday evening. The director general of police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the encounter, which lasted 3 hours, followed a raid on the terrorist hideout in Bhatike in the Mehta area. The two killed terrorists have been identified as Kulwinder Singh of Kalanaur and Rajbir Singh Zafarwal. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, along with a Chinese assault rifle, 6 hand grenades, and 700 rounds of ammunition, has been recovered from their possession.

Official Spokesman Cited on Kashmir Situation

BK2704160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The government has warned against any attempt to foment communal trouble in Jammu and Kashmir and those who do so will be sternly dealt with. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the center and the state government are fully alive to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Adequate forces have been provided to deal with any trouble.

Minister on Steps To Check Subversive Activities

BK2704092689 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The minister of state for home [title as heard], Mr P. Chidambaram, has said that the strongest action will be taken against infiltrators and subversive elements trying to incite communal trouble in Jammu and Kashmir. He said a series of measures has been taken during the last 4 weeks in consultation with the Jammu and Kashmir government to check subversive activities and communal trouble. Replying to supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha today, he said that the government is fully prepared to meet any situation.

Mr Chidambaram assured the members that a massive effort is being made to ensure that no more infiltration takes place but said it is not possible to seal the border completely.

The government has set up a special task force to identify and repatriate infiltrators. The Rajya Sabha was informed today that out of over 28,600 infiltrators apprehended at the border during the 14 month period ending February, about 25,800 have been pushed back in the five eastern states. The states are West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. The highest number of infiltrators, numbering over 23,000, were apprehended in West Bengal.

The house was also informed that fencing of the border along Punjab and Rajasthan will be completed by the middle of next month. About 105 km of fencing has been completed in Punjab and another 25 km in Rajasthan.

Spokesman Denies Ministers Aiding 'Terrorists'

BK2704155489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] An official spokesman in New Delhi has termed as totally baseless and malicious reports emanating from Haryana and appearing in a section of the press alleging the involvement of the union ministers, [Home Minister] Mr Buta Singh and [Agriculture Minister] Mr Bhajan Lal. These allegations, the spokesman said, are repeated in the press only to tarnish the image of the two central ministers with ulterior political motives. In this connection, he also referred to reports that terrorists held under custody in that state are being persuaded to make statements against the promise of bail.

Air Force Plane Crashes in Punjab 28 Apr

BK2804064389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] A PTI report from Jullundur [in Punjab State] says an Indian Air Force [IAF] plane crashed in Jullundur District early this morning. The plane caught fire in midair before crashing. The pilot bailed out to safety. Senior IAF officials have rushed to the spot and are investigating.

Pant Denies Privatization of Defense Production

BK2804043089 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has denied allegations about privatization of defense production. He was addressing the parliamentary consultative committee of his ministry in New Delhi yesterday. The minister made it clear that basic and hi-tech defense equipment will continue to be produced by government factories and undertakings. He, however, said certain defense items are being produced by civil units which is a welcome and positive development. The government finds purchase of these a cost-effective option.

Rao Cited on Treaty Arrangements With Nepal

BK2804160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has reiterated India's desire to discuss with Nepal the whole gamut of relations between the two countries. In a brief intervention during the discussion on the working of his ministry in the Rajya Sabha today, he said India has made its position clear. We will take the next step after the Nepalese stand is known. Mr Rao said on many occasions the Nepalese side had said that they were happy with the 1950 treaty. We also never asked for any change in it. What the Government of India said over the years was that the working of the treaty has been rather lopsided and both the countries should look into it.

During the resumed discussion, members expressed concern over what they said was growing distrust between India and Nepal. They said that despite India's policy of peace, cooperation, and coexistence an anti-India feeling is being generated there. Members recalled the old relations with Nepal and said the Government of Nepal should not stand on false prestige. The minister will reply to the debate on Tuesday [2 May].

Meanwhile, an official spokesman today described as distorted the impression sought to be created by Kathmandu that New Delhi is ready to review the India-Nepal Friendship Treaty of 1950. He was referring to the statement made by the Nepal Government's spokesman on the external affairs minister's speech in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The spokesman clarified that Mr Narasimha Rao had not stated that India wants a review of the treaty. What he said was that India is willing to go into the working of the treaty to ensure its implementation in letter and in spirit.

The Indian ambassador in Washington, Mr P.K. Kaul, sought to remove the misconception among some U.S. congressmen about the alleged economic blockade of Nepal by India. About 50 American congressmen had in a letter to Mr Kaul expressed concern over the matter.

PATRIOT Views Nepal's Use of 'China Card'

BK2804104789 Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Apr 89 p 4

[Article by Cecil Victor: "Security Import of Nepal Crisis"]

[Text] Nepal's studied assault on the "special relations" with India can have tragic consequences for India's security and Kathmandu appears to be keen to push the issue beyond limits. New Delhi, having finally decided to act tough, had better be prepared for the consequences. Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya's statement in a recent interview reveals the key to the situation: "...But if the current stalemate is allowed to continue for long, issue will reach the people in the streets. It can fan passions and then it will be difficult to retrieve it".

It has been obvious for a long time that Nepal has been chafing under the "special relationship" with India. It has tried, so far unsuccessfully, to achieve a loosening of the "special relationship" through its proposal for a zone of peace in Nepal. That both countries now feel that the time to confront the issue has arrived is largely the end-product of several developments that have reached fruition in recent years. These are generally geo-political developments in Tibet and the Indian Himalayan hinterland. In fact what triggered the rapid decline in Indo-Nepalese relations over the past six months is the demonstrable feasibility of Tibet as a line of supply for Nepalese commercial and strategic requirements.

The eminent feasibility of this line of supply was demonstrated when Nepal received weapons from China for the modernisation of its Armed Force. On the face of it, and it is thus argued, the acquisition of weapons from China is not a breach of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950, because Article 5 states: The Government of Nepal shall be free to import, from or through the territory of India, arms, ammunition and warlike material and equipment necessary for the security of Nepal. The procedure for giving effect to this arrangement shall be worked out by the two governments acting in consultation. The fact that such import was not "from or through the territory of India" place no obligation on the Kingdom of Nepal to initiate procedures which per se gave India a clear picture of the intent for which the types of weapons were sought to be imported.

India, thereby, did not feel that anything was being done that could be irksome to it. This time the weapons came from China via Tibet and India was unaware of the shopping list till it became known that it contained, among other things, rapid-fire anti-aircraft guns. It raised suspicions in New Delhi about whom these guns were intended to be used against.

The other channel of trade was (by the very nature of the dispute) revealed only after the final collapse of the trade and transit arrangements in late March: The supply of petroleum products via Lhasa—obviously from the strategic pipeline that China has made operational to sustain its military efforts along the Indo-Tibet border from Aksai Chin in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. This logistical facility is now being utilised for the projection of Chinese political interests southwards across the Himalayas. It is mainly on the strength of this facility that Nepal no longer sees supplies of petrol, oil and lubricants from India as being essential and that is why Nepal hitherto has held that it does not need a treaty on trade; only one on transit is essential and obligatory on the part of India.

There is thus a qualitative difference in the geopolitical situation along the Himalayas and this has been brought about mainly by the Chinese ability and willingness to become a supplier of essential commodities and weapons to states lying on the Indian periphery.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi may have been merely trying to be polite when he said that China was not involved in the present Indo-Nepal crisis; or else there is about to be another disastrous failure of intelligence and political appreciation of Chinese intentions of the kind that led to the 1962 debacle and the mutiny by Sikh troops after Operation Bluestar. Nepalese Foreign Minister Upadhyaya has given a very pointed hint about the use of the demographic factor. If the issue, as Mr Upadhyaya suggests, is taken to the streets then the inflammation will spread throughout the Tarai Himalayas, Sikkim and the Darjeeling hill tracts where substantial segments of people of Nepalese origin are already in a state of agitation. If this is to be exacerbated by taking the "issue to the streets" then the threat that is being posed is a pro-Nepal uprising in this region.

By extension, and this is where the ultimate danger lies, it would affect Gurkha soldiers in the Indian Army in much the same way as rumours and political instigation which Indian intelligence agencies and Army brass failed to counter (Chief of Army Staff Gen K. Sundarji later admitted that it was a failure of command at all levels) and which led to the traumatic mutiny of Sikh troops fired by reports of maltreatment of families in Punjab.

The Indian people inured by reports of the great discipline of Indian troops were stunned when this bastion was revealed to have been infested by the canker of discontent externally manipulated. The proposition that steady deterioration of Indo-Nepal relations could seriously affect Gurkha troops or the possibility that anyone could use it as a weapon against India can best be underscored by the manner in which Chinese manipulated the ethnic Chinese in Vietnam in the hope of bringing that nation to its knees by resurrecting a Fifth Column in the midst of the war effort.

Which brings us back to the anti-aircraft guns that China has supplied to Nepal. Given the likelihood of the hinterland becoming inflamed by pro-Nepal sentiment, the Indian Army's lines of communication to Sikkim which passes through the narrow Siliguri corridor would be disrupted, making it difficult for India to send security forces to control the agitation which could erupt there. The High Command would have to fall back on the use of aircraft and helicopters in an airlift meant to ease the pressure in Sikkim in the first instant or by sending troops into Nepal if things go out of control all along the Himalayan foothills. The anti-aircraft guns can be used only in such a scenario—to prevent an airlift. And that is the reason why the choice of this weapon by Nepal should be cause for concern in India. It is central to the use of the fragile demographic factor in the northern Himalayas.

Other factors that ought to be weighed in the evolution of the Indian strategy is that China has shown some interest in Gurkha troops. This has come by way of an offer to absorb British-Gurkha troops presently stationed in Hong Kong when sovereignty of that island-state reverts to Mainland China in 1997. Britain has indicated that it will redeploy the battalions in Brunei and bring the rest back home. However, if the King of Nepal prefers to depend on the Lhasa connection for petroleum products then he may have no choice (or he may think that it would be more advantageous to allow Gurkha troops into the People's Liberation Army.

Everything, therefore, depends on how far the King of Nepal will use the China card against India.

Foreign Minister Comments on Foreign Relations

BK2704150589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The Indo-Pakistan joint commission has been revived and will meet soon. It lay dormant for many years. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said in the Rajya Sabha today that the home, defense, and foreign secretaries of the two countries will also have separate meetings soon. The minister was intervening in the debate on the working of the External Affairs Ministry. He said there is now tremendous goodwill between the people of the two countries and relations have further improved after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Islamabad.

Mr Natwar Singh said that India has made it clear to Pakistan its reservations about Siachen, Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir. He said we are also concerned about military aid to Pakistan and its nuclear weapons program.

About China, the minister said the two countries had 8 rounds of official level talks. He said the situation in the border is quiet and peaceful. Whenever there has been any minor problem, it was defused through dialogue.

Mr Natwar Singh said improvement of relations with the two neighbors is a major event with wider ramifications not only in Asia but the world over.

About Afghanistan, the minister said unless the Geneva accords are faithfully implemented, the present situation will continue. He regretted that there are no signs that this will happen soon.

Referring to Fiji, Mr Natwar Singh said India is doing its best that the people of Indian origin get a better deal there. The minister assured the members that the issue will be taken to various fora and India will not agree to the reentry of Fiji into the Commonwealth.

About Sri Lanka, the minister said there has been considerable improvement in the implementation of the agreement and India does not desire to keep the peacekeeping force there for long.

Nine Indian Workers in Singapore Sentenced

BK2804092789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] In Singapore, nine Indian nationals have been sentenced to a jail term and three strokes of the cane under the new immigration act. They were punished for overstaying in that country. Expressing unhappiness over the sentence, a spokesman of the Indian High Commission told our correspondent that the new law, which came into existence from the 1st of this month with a grace period of 90 days, was not honored in this case. The spokesman said that the Indian High Commission will take up the matter with appropriate authorities today.

Commentary Views U.S. Arms Aid to Pakistan

BK2704115589 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Commentary by P. Devkumar entitled: "New U.S. Military Aid to Pakistan]

[Text] The decision of the United States to begin rearming Pakistan by providing additional aid to acquire sophisticated military hardware has caused great concern in this region. The Asia-Pacific Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has recently approved a $621 million aid package to Pakistan. Out of this $240 million would be in foreign military sales as compared to $220 million in the previous year.

What surprises India is that, on the one side, the new U.S. Administration is giving the impression that Washington encourages speedier normalization of relations between New Delhi and Islamabad, but, on the other hand, it is releasing increasing military aid to Pakistan. The most disconcerting aspect of the whole thing is that the U.S. is continuing to rearm and modernize the Pakistani defense forces despite the fact that Soviet troops have left Afghanistan. In the past, Washington used the pretext of a Soviet threat to Pakistan in releasing more military aid to Islamabad and to aid the mujahidin. But no such danger to Pakistan's security exists now, then why is the U.S. pouring more top of the line weapon systems into Pakistan?

Pakistan is simultaneously pursuing a policy of substantial quantitative expansion of its Armed Forces coupled with the acquisition of state of the art military technology in its quest to achieve a qualitative advantage in the region.

In addition to all this, India has to view with concern reports of growing Pakistani security linkages with the United States Central Command and also with it erstwhile CENTO [Central Treaty Organization] partners. It is now becoming clearer that American strategic interests are continuing to grow in Pakistan despite the Soviet pull out from Afghanistan.

Whatever the Pakistani argument might be, people concerned with global security aspects have acknowledged that Islamabad need not be worried about the imaginary assault from its northern border. They also acknowledged that there is no such threat either from India on the east. Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto also has hailed India's 2 billion rupee cut in its defense budget for 1989-90. India is focusing its attention to developing the economy, to welcome the fast approaching 21st century so as to be a little nearer to the developed economies.

In spite of this, why America is bent upon teething [as heard] Pakistan? The nearest guess could be that this superpower is trying to build a base for itself clandestinely in our western neighborhood.

It may not be out of place here to state that the U.S. Administration has also imposed restrictions on our exports to a certain extent. Recent rejection of paper and textile garments are some of the examples. The latest hurdle that the Bush administration is trying to establish is in the way of India becoming a self-reliant nation in the field of drugs, chemicals and pesticides. The United States is attempting to bring about international pressure through UN bodies like the GATT to force New Delhi to amend our patent laws, which have been in force for the past 18 years. Such attempts by America are viewed as putting the Damocles sword against India so that she is forced to divert its scarce resources to fund defense expenditure at the cost of economic growth leading the country to self-sufficiency.

With the emergence of the democratically elected government in Pakistan, New Delhi and Islamabad have expressed their resolve to work for good neighborly relations and to achieve this goal in the spirit of the Simla Agreement. Only the other day, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, while addressing the Army commanders meeting reiterated this goal. If the United States is really interested in ensuring peace and stability in the subcontinent, then Washington must take into account this new trend in Indo-Pakistan relations and refrain from sparking an arms race in the region by rearming Pakistan. The U.S. must stick to its declared policy that nuclear proliferation would lead to a cut in the aid.

U.S. 'Interference' in Internal Affairs Examined

BK2804104589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Solarz on Punjab"]

[Text] Washington's role of a self-appointed arbiter on human rights or crisis situations in developing countries is widely known. Therefore, if the US Congress Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs praises Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's "Punjab package" as a measure designed to alleviate some of 'the human rights concerns' in the sensitive border State, it should hardly surprise anyone. Mr Henry Kissinger, Mr Vernon Walters and others have periodically invented one tag or the other for India. There was even a report recently in "THE NEW YORK TIMES" suggesting that both the Soviet and Western blocs had turned the "entire Indian region over to India." Last December, US Ambassador in Pakistan Robert Oakley, however, decided that India was not the pre-eminent power in the Indian subcontinent.

Needless to add, such an assumed role of America is preposterous and Washington has no business to give such certificates or interfere in the internal affairs of this country. The Congressional subcommittee is headed by Mr Stephan J. Solarz, who visited Punjab early this year to "lend a helping hand." There is no doubt a considerable amount of goodwill for him in this country. And yet the impression that Mr Solarz's earlier visit to Punjab and now his statement on the Prime Minister's "Punjab package" have created is that he and some other congressmen are seeking to mediate, if not meddle, in the internal affairs of this country.

This country does not have to be told by the Congressional subcommittee that the release of Jodhpur detainees and steps to arraign those responsible for the 1984 anti-Sikh riots would accelerate the healing process. New Delhi should tell US Congressional committees that just as India's Parliament would not want to advise the US Government on matters which are strictly in America's domestic jurisdiction, the US Congress should also refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of India.

Iran

Khamene'i Criticizes Egypt, 'Arafat in Sermons

LD2804112189 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—The Islamic Republic regretted that negotiations with the Zionist regime was no longer considered a taboo in the Middle East, but vowed its stand would always be that all of Palestine must be liberated.

"Today, unfortunately, the indecency of negotiating with Israel has been eliminated," President 'Ali Khamene'i told Tehran's Friday mass prayer gathering.

"Today everyone knows that leaders of the movement for the liberation of Palestine, old and former combatants, are willing to talk with the Israelis... but now it is they (Israelis) who are mincing and refuse to talk."

But Khamene'i, noting the upcoming Qods (Jerusalem) day rallies held on the last Friday of the month of Ramadan since the Islamic revolution, stressed Iran would not retreat from calling for the anhiliation of the illegitimate state of Israel.

"We believe the aim of this struggle is not the formation of a tiny, hand-installed, poor and subservient Palestinian government," he said.

"The aim of the sincere and real struggle in Palestine is to stick back this torn-off piece from the body of Islam—that is the destruction of the usurper government of Israel and the formation of a government in all of Palestine by Palestinians themselves."

The Islamic Republic, reversing the pro-Israel polices of the shah, closed down the Israeli Embassy in Tehran immediately after the February 1979 revolution.

World Muslims were invited to take part in demonstrations in support of Palestinians on the last Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan, which this year falls on May 5.

Relations were also broken off with Egypt because of then President Anwar al-Sadat's peace treaty with Tel Aviv. Similar action had been taken by almost all Arab countries who expelled Cairo from the Arab League. "Today Egypt is acting as if it is owed something," Khamene'i said.

Meanwhile the president harshly criticized the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, declared president of Palestine earlier this month, for his conciliatry gestures towards Israel.

"Yasir 'Arafat is not struggling (for the liberation of Palestine)" he said.

"His stand is that of Anwar al-Sadat ten years ago... which is to make up with Israel... with America, and even to condemn (armed) struggle."

Khamene'i's statement against 'Arafat was the strongest since the Palestine National Council declared last autumn the formation of the state of Palestine in the occupied West Bank and Gaza territories. Iran has not recognized the state.

The Palestinian struggle was more widespread and popular than ever and yet it lacked full support, he added. "See it on television: from children to young adults, the old, men and women, clerics and students, clerks and shop keepers, all are struggling... they are struggling all alone."

Khamene'i said Qods day, in the past two years, had been observed by Palestinian Muslims in the occupied territories with great enthusiasm, despite the increasing repressive measures of Israeli troops.

Bayt al-Moqaddas, or Jerusalem, is where the third most important Islamic shrine in the world of Islam, the Al-Aqsa' Mosque is located. The mosque and its surroundings has been the scene of some of the worst clashes between Palestinians and the occupation forces.

The president also criticized those governments in the Islamic world who had tried to discourage Muslims from taking part in Qods day ceremonies or banned them all together.

Urges Constitutional Amendments

LD2804124989 Tehran IRNA in English 1236 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Friday expressed hope that constitutional amendments would improve the way the Islamic Republic is governed and rejected that centralization of power would necessarily lead to dictatorship.

"Amending and completing the Constitution... is good news that, living conditions and the situation of managing the society will, God willing, be improved in the future."

Addressing Friday prayer in Tehran, Khamene'i said nearly eight years of experience as head of the executive branch showed the existence of too many power centers was just as bad as the concentration of power in the hands of one man. "You cannot run a country like this in a correct way and with strength," he emphasized. There is too much disperion (of power) than can be allowed in a good and strong administration. The various forces and authorities must be concentrated a bit."

The president mentioned that Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, whom according to the Constitution, has wider powers than the president, and many others senior officials agreed that amendments were needed.

Both are members of a 25-man council set up to draw proposals to reform the Constitution in two months. The proposed changes would be confirmed if approved in a national referrendum at about the same time as presidential elections in mid- summer.

"Whoever is going to be the next (president) would have to be able to act in a way he sees correct and just. If not, what's the use if he doesn't have the legal means to act as he sees fit? Obviously, in this case nothing will move ahead and there will be problems."

But Khamene'i threw away suggestions that the centralization of authority would inevitably give rise to dictatorship. Public supervision and a strong judiciary would not let it happen, he believed.

"Of course not everyone who has concentrated power will become a dictator. Yes, if a supervisory body, public control and a powerful judiciary do not exist, then there's the threat of dictatorship."

The president stressed that the people should not underestimate the effect of the Constitution in their daily lives.

"Don't underestimate the Constitution. Don't say what has the Constitution got to do with bread, water, and electricity... they are all connected to the Constitution."

Jannati Discusses Constitution at Qom Prayers

LD2804150389 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] Qom, April 28, IRNA—A prominent alim [religious scholar] today termed the revision of the Constitution as an inevitable move necessary for securing the Islamic revolution.

"If we delay improving some (constitutional) principles, the Islamic Republic will sustain irreparable blows especially in the area of future leadership," Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati warned in his sermon at Friday prayer here.

Jannati, a member of the Council of Guardians and head of the Islamic Propagation Organization, is a member of a special council which is to decide on the amendments and seek national approval in a referendum this summer.

He also described the discovery of a U.S. spy ring in Iran as a "valuable, divine success."

"This important issue showed that enemies of the revolution and the Islamic Republic have never hesitated, nor will they hesitate, to conspire against Islamic Iran," he said.

Qom's Friday prayer leader also called on world Muslims to take part in Qods [Jerusalem] Day rallies in support of the Palestinian movement next Friday.

UK Seeks Information on Detained Briton

LD2704124189 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] London, April 27, IRNA—The British Government says it is seeking clarification through the Swedish Embassy in Tehran about the arrest of one of its nationals who was due to have been deported from Iran.

The Foreign Office spokesman told IRNA Thursday it was trying to find out the "exact circumstances" of the detention of 53-year old self-employed businessman John Bowden and "whether it was still Iran's intention to deport him." He understood that the arrested Briton was being held on allegations of fraud but was unable to ascertain if he had been formally charged.

Bowden was one of 18 Britons named for deportation following the expulsion of 17 Iranians and one locally employed Lebanese worker for the Iranian Embassy in London last month.

The Home Office confirmed Thursday that 16 of the 17 Iranians had left the country and that the 17th, who had been in Tehran at the time, was not allowed to return to Britain.

A spokesman explained that the Lebanese worker had been arrested when he did not leave the country in time and was escorted to London airport on March 29 after being served with expulsion orders.

The original deportations by Britain was linked directly to Iran's earlier decision to completely sever diplomatic links with London for its "unprincipled stand" in supporting the publication of "The Satanic Verses" that is considered blasphemous to Islam.

At the time, the Home Office suggested that a total of around 40 Iranians would be expelled from Britain in two or three stages, but a spokesman said Thursday that he had "no details" of any further deportations being planned.

Soviet Economic Delegation Signs Agreement

LD2704220789 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Week-long talks between Iran and the Soviet Union ended here today after experts from the two countries inked a note on Tehran-Moscow economic, technical and trade cooperation.

The two sides exchanged views on agreements for export of Iran's natural gas to the Soviet Union, as well as on bilateral economic, technical and scientific cooperation until the year 2000.

Talks were also held on a long-term trade agreement to be signed during the forthcoming visit of Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow.

The Soviet delegation left Tehran for Moscow today.

IRNA: Oil Minister Discusses New Refinery

LD2704210289 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—A consortium of GGC [expansion unknown] of Japan and TPL [expansion unknown] of Italy is to build a seventh oil refinery for Iran in the city of Arak with a daily capacity of 150,000 BPD [barrels per day]. An agreement for the refinery was signed between the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and the consortium here Wednesday.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters here Thursday that the contractor has undertaken to teach the design technology of the refinery to Iranian engineers and technicians. The refinery is to be completed within 40 months. It will be built with a budget allocation of about 130 billion rials (dlrs. 1.8m [million].

The oil minister also said that Iranian gas to the Soviet Union will flow again after the two countries have agreed on its price.

Aqazadeh said Iran is about to sign an agreement with a Finnish company for manufacturing drilling cranes and service ships at the Caspian Sea.

On import of oil products Aqazadeh said the import of refined oil stood at 2.3 billion dollars before Abadan refinery was put into operation last February. The refinery reduced the imports by 1.3 to 1.4 billion dollars, he said.

He also said Iran had spent a total of 14 billion dollars on import of oil products during the eight years of the Iraqi war.

"Iran will cut imports of oil products, and become ready to export such products once Arak and Bandar-e 'Abbas refineries and second phase of the Abadan refinery are put into operation," said the minister.

Elsewhere he said gas exports to the Soviet Union will not influence the country's gas network, and that ample gas will be supplied both for internal use and exports for the next 15 years when Kangas gas refinery starts work.

On oil prices he said OPEC oil ministers agreed to protect 18 dollars per barrel and decided to discuss any increase in production ceiling according to the new demands within the framework of the bench price. "1989 would be a year of stability for OPEC and the oil markets," he hoped.

Majlis Speaker Meets Lebanese Hizballah Council

LD2704135989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Text] Majlis Speaker Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a meeting with members of the Hizballah Council of Lebanon today, stressed the need for unity among all Islamic and nationalist forces in Lebanon. Such unity is necessary to neutralize the plots of global arrogance, international Zionism, and compromising elements.

In this meeting Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani once again stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's full support for the Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine and the Muslims of the region.

Afghan Rallies Mark 11th Anniversary of 'Coup'

LD2704133689 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Two leaders of the Tehran-based Afghan coalition and Peshawar-based Afghan alliance today called on Afghan people to further close their ranks to overthrow the ruling regime in Kabul.

Khairkhah [name as received] from the seven-party alliance promised that Afghan people would return to their homeland from all parts of the world once the Kabul regime is toppled.

The leaders were speaking to a massive rally of the Afghan mujahidin and refugees which marked the 11th anniversary of the communist coup in Afghanistan (27 April, 1978).

"Death to the Soviet Union, death to the United States" chanted the marchers as they passed through city streets here.

The communist coup was premeditated and despatch of the Afghan youth to the Soviet Union under the pretext of education and arrival of the Soviet advisors, establishment of intelligence services as well as Khalq (people) and Parcham (flag) parties served to pave the way for the coup.

A plan to internationalize the Afghan issue by the big powers aims at preventing establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan, Khairkhah said, adding that all strata of the Afghan people should join hand and consolidate their unity.

'Alijan Zahedi [name as received], a spokesman of the eight-party coalition attacked the sinister Western colonialism for its plots in Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan to destroy Islam.

Zahedi said the Red Army experienced the bitter taste of defeat in Afghanistan thanks to the devotion of the Afghan people. "We have put behind the first stage and should now take lesson from our 10-year long struggle," he said in reference to the withdrawal of the Soviet forces.

He also criticised a proposal for stationing United Nations forces along Pakistan-Afghanistan borders. "Why these forces are not stationed along Afghanistan-Soviet borders, from where Russian bombers raid us," he questioned.

Meanwhile, Afghan mujahidin and refugees led by their 'ulema and theologians staged a massive rally in Mashhad, Khorasan Province today denouncing the communist coup in Afghanistan, and foreign interventions in that Muslim country.

Representatives of Afghan Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims spoke about the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, Soviet goals for pouring forces into the country, the people's struggle and foreign reflections of the Afghan issue, during the ceremony.

Similar rallies were also held in the central cities of Esfahan and Yazd, Arak (Central Province), the holy city of Qom, and elsewhere in Iran.

The marchers issued resolutions stressing continuation of struggle until the downfall of the Kabul regime and victory of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan. The resolutions also condemned any political deal with the kabul regime.

New Ambassador to UNESCO Appointed

LD1804084689 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—Hasan Sadduq Vanini [name as received] was appointed Iran's new ambassador to the United Nation's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), it was announced today.

The appointment was proposed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and approved by President 'Ali Khamene'i, the public relations office of the ministry said.

Vanini, a university professor, had been head of UNESCO's national commission in Iran.

Commentary on Reyshahri's Spying Disclosures

LD2704133189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1059 GMT 27 apr 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Yesterday in an interview the information minister explained some important points about how a CIA espionage network was uncovered, how the spies were trained, and the nature of their activities in various sectors of the country.

In this interview he stressed that the discovery of an espionage network of this scope and with such resources—without drawing on the intelligence services of others—has been unprecedented in the world. [passage omitted]

Since the Islamic revolution's victory, many liberation movements have sprung up in the world and particularly in Islamic countries whose divine inspiration has neutralized the arrogant powers' hegemony and mischiefs as practiced over the world's oppressed.

This manifests itself in the form of confrontation with arrogance, especially with the West. Muslim nations are standing firm against foreign cultural aggressions and defending the values of their school of thought. The alertness and awareness of Muslim people in Islamic countries has made vulnerable the unlawful interests of the superpowers, particularly the United States, and caused them much anxiety.

In recent years liberation movements inspired by Islamic ideals have sounded the alarm for the arrogant powers. In this respect the arrogant powers confronted this new resurgence with all their might. To this end, the West devised plots and mischief, tried to penetrate and completely divert the real revolution, that is, Islamic Iran, and continued to exert all efforts needed for this purpose.

Dangerous conspiracies such as the Tabas episode; the Nowzheh coup d'etat; the inciting of local wars using affiliated minigroups in the border provinces, and, the greatest of all, the savage invasion of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq against our country, are only parts of the plots and mischief of Western arrogance against the Islamic revolution.

During these long years of struggle against arrogance our combatant Muslim people have learned well that divine blessings and the alertness of the people and their faith in Islam, have been important elements in the preservation of the revolution.

The discovery of a large-scale and extensive U.S. espionage network and getting to know about their long- and short-term objectives, all gained by the intelligence forces of our country, speaks of the fact that Western arrogance, through the use of deceitful and crafty methods, intended to penetrate the ranks of the Islamic revolution so that it may, at the first opportunity, deliver the last blow to the body of the system.

The managers of the country must now use the lessons they learned from the discovery of U.S. spies in Iran and to exercise extreme care in selecting individuals in the future because the world's espionage services pick the pawns they need from among the more prominent strata who have for the most part had higher educational training and are highly specialized. This selection takes place with important objectives in mind, the most important being to gain access to vital news, information, and viewpoints on methods of implementation. To confront these kinds of methods, officials should as far as possible avoid discussing sensitive topics and revealing classified information. They should only talk about these if it is absolutely necessary. In line with this, an increase in people's political and intelligence awareness through the publication of suitable subject matter and distribution of instructive films can protect society from these kinds of developments.

Tehran TV Commentary on 'Espionage Network'

LD2704203489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1738 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Political commentary]

[Text] Yesterday the intelligence minister revealed in an interview further details of the CIA espionage network in Iran that was uncovered. According to the minister's account, all the members of this extraordinary clandestine movement were Iranians who, after years of active service, had infiltrated some private and state-controlled organizations and engaged in passing secret information.

A number of these spies had received complex training in the use of espionage tools. In addition, in the course of uncovering the most recent U.S. espionage network in Iran, the fingerprints of some European countries were also detected, which indicates a long-term CIA investment in Iran and the importance this organization attached and still attaches to its network of Iranian spies.

The U.S. espionage organization, the CIA, is among the most important and best equipped espionage and intelligence organizations in the world. It has always been active in masterminding projects involving conspiracies, attacks, infiltration, and interference in the affairs of most countries around the world—including Iran.

In spite of all the international accords and principles which the criminal United States has, under the pretext of human rights, falsely claimed to advocate, that country has never abandoned its tendencies to interfere in other countries' affairs.

Even now that its huge espionage network in Iran has been uncovered, it audaciously claims that the discovery of the espionage network is an Iranian domestic issue and pleads ignorance of any connection between its espionage organizations and this network.

There is no doubt that the Islamic revolution from the beginning of its victory has attacked principal U.S. interests in Iran, cutting off the plundering hand of U.S. imperialism. In the course of this, Iran has fought against various kinds of military and nonmilitary actions by the Washington ringleaders and has emerged victorious.

However, the covert hireling hands of U.S. espionage agencies in Iran have continued their activities one after the other, in the vain hope that they could plunder the huge material and spiritual interests of the Iranians in the near future.

After foiling the coup d'etat and the military initiatives, and after its despair over the terrorist activities carried out by the minigroups and counterrevolutionary elements, the CIA deployed all of its resources in the early years in order to divert U.S. counterrevolutionary initiatives toward the nonmilitary espionage and intelligence organizations. Through such a change it hoped to be able to spread its satanic trap.

But now, in the wake of the great blow which was delivered by our country's relatively young intelligence service to this most recent CIA espionage network in Iran, once again this CIA change in strategy has ended in defeat. Nevertheless, it is necessary for the people and the officials to remain alert to whenever U.S. imperialism again has been attacked and become confused.

The sensitivity of safeguarding secret information in all political, economic, and military organizations also causes much concern. On the one hand, with the accurate information gathered about the ways and means by which it recruited spies in Iran, it is possible—through the necessary training and the closing of channels which are probably effective in attracting weak and vulnerable people—to foil the last conspiracies hatched by the enemies and traitors, and stop the continuation of espionage activities in the country.

With the knowledge which we have had and continue to have of the nature of U.S. imperialism, this may not be the last conspiracy hatched by CIA elements in Iran, and it is not improbable that the CIA may once again embark on the gathering and establishing of espionage networks. Therefore, it is necessary for our country's intelligence system, which through its recent initiative has displayed its might and capability in counterespionage activities, to continue to be ever vigilant in this area.

243 Drug Dealers, 549 Addicts Arrested

LD2704123189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Committee has announced: Following the nonstop implementation of the vast campaign against death merchants, during the past 48 hours as many as 243 individuals have been arrested on charges of transporting, possessing, and dealing in narcotics, together with 549 individuals who were arrested on drug addiction charges. They were all arrested by the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards throughout the country.

According to the Central News Unit report, as a result of nonstop efforts by the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards, two notorious smugglers in Kerman Province have been arrested and more than 75 kgs of opium have been seized. Also a sum of 1.1 million rials cash was being held by them, which was discovered and confiscated.

Paper Rejects Iraqi Official's Remarks on War

NC2804080289 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Apr 89 pp 1, 11

[Akbar Nabavi editorial: "To Test the Tested Is a Mistake!"]

[Excerpts] The British propaganda agency, the BBC, quoted Nizar Hamdun, the deputy foreign minister of Iraq, in its evening newscast the day before yesterday as saying that war may be resumed if there is any talk of the Arvand River being returned to its former legal status as contained in the 1975 accord.

According to this propaganda agency, Nizar Hamdun is cited as saying that: "A return to the substance of the Algiers Accord, which divides jurisdiction over the Shatt al-'Arab [Arvand River] waterway between Iran and Iraq, would be the sole reason, which could result in another war."

In our opinion, Nizar Hamdun's utterances are evidence of Iraq's relapse into its fantasies which motivated it to commit a major error in 1980, that is the military aggression against Iranian territory, an overt blunder, which if repeated, would not benfit Iraq in any way, as in the past.

The events of the imposed war should have convinced Iraq that the era of "dreams and fantasies" has ended and that it is now at a juncture where it is forced to accept reality, however bitter. It should also be aware that taking any action opposed to the realities of the region—especially if one of the parties concerned is the Islamic Republic of Iran—will not be at all advantageous to Iraq. [passage omitted]

As repeatedly and overtly stated by the masses of Iranian people as well as the leadership, the Arvand River is an international waterway with none of the characteristics of a local river. Naturally, sovereignty over this waterway should be divided on the basis of the doctrine of international rights over rivers between countries having a common maritime border.

The Iraqi officials should rest assured that the Iranian authorities will not accept anything else. The heroic and noble people have also bestowed this duty on their officials, a duty to pursue only this principle.

The Iraqi Government should also know that in the Islamic Republic's view, the conditions prevailing in the region do not lend themselves to the acceptance of another war. However, if this war is initiated, it will definitely be more extensive and unrestrained than the previous 8-year war and will envelop the entire region.

Similarly, the Islamic Republic will not follow a predictable or controllable policy in the war with which Hamdun is threatening us. If the Iraqi Government thinks otherwise, it is free to "test" the "tested" once again!

Roundtable on Proposed Changes in Constitution

NC2604154089 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 20 Apr 89

["Political Roundtable" with Majlis Deputies Majid Ansari from Zarand in Kerman Province and Asadollah Bayat from Zanjan, moderated by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the name of God. Greetings, dear viewers. We are here with this week's political roundtable.

Recently, we saw that a number of Majlis deputies, together with members of the Supreme Judicial Council, sent separate letters to the imam of the ummah calling for the revision of some of the Constitution's articles, or the preparation of an addendum. In this week's political roundtable discussion we will study this matter.

Before starting the discussion, I would like to introduce this week's guests: Mr Majid Ansari, Majlis deputy of the people of Zarand, Kerman, and Mr Asadollah Bayat, Majlis deputy of the people of Zanjan. I thank them for having accepted our invitation and agreeing to answer our questions.

Mr Bayat, the issue of constitutional reforms or, in other words, the preparation of an addendum to the Constitution has been propounded—both forcefully and mildly—by the press and political circles for some years. Nevertheless, the fact that this issue has been raised at this juncture appears to have to do with recent developments in society, especially those relating to the future leadership of the system. Is this true or not?

[Bayat] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted] As was stated at the beginning of the question, the issue of amendments to the Constitution or the preparation of an addendum to it has been propounded from the very beginning. The fact is that the nature of laws and their shortcomings, which are the product of human beings and human brains, become more apparent with time and especially with experience. We all know that when our holy revolution achieved victory with the prophet-like leadership of the imam, there were perhaps many who thought that we could not prepare a Constitution so fast and place it at the disposal of Islamic society and the Islamic ummah.

However, fortunately both the preparation of the Constitution and our holy revolution succeeded under the aegis of the imam and with the efforts of the capable and great experts of our Islamic ummah, and this high-quality Constitution was drawn up in a very short time. Naturally, those principles that were in the Constitution then were affected by the events of the revolution and by various incidents that took place at that time. This was only natural.

The Constitution was presented, and shortly thereafter many thought that there were ambiguities in some of its tenets and that there were shortcomings and gaps in others which would have to be studied and overcome in time. Fortunately, throughout these 10 years—in the legislative, executive, and judicial arenas—the various principles of the Constitution have been put to a practical test. [passage omitted]

About 10 years have passed since the Constitution was presented. It has particularly apparent in recent years that we have faced serious delays on some issues. One was the issue of leadership. We had cases where we studied principles and turned them into bills which we sent to the Council of Guardians. The Council of Guardians would express its views. The bill would return to the Majlis, and then again to the Council of Guardians.

These very same delays were what led to the presentation of the issue to the imam and then, in turn, led to the imam's appointment of the Expediency Discernment Council, which resolved some of the delays. But this itself shows very clearly that it was not only the issue of leadership that presented these problems to us, but that there were other issues too. [passage omitted]

The imam's approach to issues was very decisive and he solved the problem. At any rate, it was the influence of the leadership and the approach of the leadership that solved problems. However, we continued to see that the necessary forecasts had not been made in the principles of the Constitution. Naturally, as far as the duties of the leadership and the leadership council are concerned, there are some points which, if looked at carefully, need clarification. Certain gaps need to be filled.

[Correspondent] Mr Ansari, after the letter from the Majlis deputies to the imam of the ummah, we saw that members of the Supreme Judicial Council also sent a letter calling for amendments to some of the principles. Had there been previous coordination among the three powers on this?

[Ansari] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. In continuation of the remarks by my dear brother, I should say that the shortcomings of the Constitution were pointed out a long time ago, although it does have many strong points. The human brain is not infallible, nor are the laws made by man. Such laws are governed by conditions and influenced by events, and they can reveal shortcomings during implementation. Some laws may be effective at a certain point, but new developments and new needs that arise call for changes. The dispatch by the Supreme Judicial Council of a letter after the Majlis deputies had sent theirs was not based on any previous coordination.

As far as I know, when it came to understanding the shortcomings of the Constitution, the first imperfection which everyone saw was the Constitution's weakness with regard to the judiciary. The Constitution has 12 articles. Among the most outstanding disadvantages in the article on the judiciary was the fact that it prescribed that the judiciary should take the form of a council. I think that not only the experts but also the people realized the need for changes in the judiciary, and it was on this basis that last year the imam instructed the Supreme Judicial Council to divide up its duties.

The second point which is a serious shortcoming of the Constitution concerns the executive power and its organizational form. At the beginning of the revolution, when Bani-Sadr was president, for a long time—possibly about 6 months—we did not have ministers for four [as heard] of the country's important ministries; namely, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy, and Finance. The reason for this was that the necessary coordination did not exist between the then prime minister, martyr Raja'i, and the then president, Bani-Sadr.

The ministers that he presented were not approved. At that time we thought that this was because of differences of view between the martyr Raja'i and Bani-Sadr. But later on we saw that this was not the case. It was actually the absence of clarification of this point in the Constitution that led to friction between the rights of the president and of the prime minister. Every time these two want to impose their legal rights, they reach a point of friction, and the necessary provisions to deal with this were not included in the Constitution.

[Correspondent] That is, in addition to the existence of a conflict of views, there was an imperfection that led to this situation.

[Ansari] There is a legal imperfection. Later on we saw how this shortcoming affected His Excellency President Khamene'i and His Excellency Prime Minister Musavi when it came to appointing ministers, even though these two great men are both among the outstanding figures of the revolution. The problem that existed during Bani-Sadr's time did not exist in this case.

Nevertheless, both during the second session of the Majlis and in this session, we saw that there were differences of opinion on the timely appointment of ministers. The current example is the Ministry of Commerce, which has been without a minister for a long time. This stems from this same imperfection in the Constitution. Thus, I think that when the Supreme Judicial Council saw that the matter had been brought up by the Majlis, they too seized the opportunity to raise it.

[Correspondent] Mr Bayat, one of the issues that came up in connection with the letter by the Majlis deputies to the imam of the ummah was that there are between 250 and 270 Majlis deputies and only 166 of them signed this letter to the imam. Why did not all the deputies sign this letter? Does the fact that they all did not sign it show that there were some who were opposed, or was there some other reason?

[Bayat] I think that I should first speak about the procedure when letters are signed in the Majlis. The letters that are written in the Majlis, where we now have about 266 deputies, are sometimes written when some of the deputies are absent because they are visiting their constituencies, are on leave, or have other work. We may have 200, 210, 190, or 180 deputies present. This is the usual number of deputies present. Therefore, very often no more than 180 deputies are present in the Majlis. Sometimes, in certain cases—that is, during discussions on the budget or on the cabinet which are more sensitive issues—more deputies are present. On that day too we had fewer than 200 deputies present.

Moreover, when the letter was prepared, about 130 deputies signed it. On the basis of a decision by the chair, the names of these 130 people were read out. We then announced that anyone else who wanted to sign it could do so. Some deputies had already left when we announced this. Thus, all of those who were present signed. But afterwards, when some who were absent from the Majlis heard that we had written this letter, they went to the Public Relations Office and signed the letter there.

In addition, it is natural for some people in the Majlis who disagree. The imam himself has stressed this too, and it is a proof of the freedom of the Majlis and of the prevailing atmosphere there. Maybe there are limited people who do not fully agree with such issues. Therefore, this is the situation that existed in the Majlis on that day. The same procedure applies in the Majlis with other letters too.

[Correspondent] Mr Ansari, the letters that were sent to the imam by the Majlis and the Supreme Judicial Council requested that the imam appoint a delegation to discuss those articles needing amendments. Apparently, there are discussions on this and a plan exists for some of the Majlis deputies and members of the Council of Guardians, a selected group of cabinet members, the heads of the three powers, or some other body to undertake this matter. Can you explain to our viewers what the details of these two plans are?

[Ansari] As you explained, both in the letter from the Majlis and in the letter by the Supreme Judicial Council, the proposal for the formation of a group to prepare a draft revision or an addendum has been made. I would like to take this opportunity to say that one of the shortcomings of the Constitution is that it contains no provision for methods of revision or of the preparation of an addendum. The appropriate provision should have been made as a matter of course.

As no such provision exists, we thought that the best way would be to make a proposal. Of course, this will be implemented as the imam deems fit, and his views definitely take priority over what we may envisage, because he has a better grasp of the issues. But as the party making the proposals, we suggested that a group be formed. This is what the Supreme Judicial Council asked for too.

The Majlis deputies believed that if a group consisting of 30 to 32 people representing the powers in general—that is, 10 or 15 from the Majlis, some from the Supreme Judicial Council, some from the honorable Council of Guardians, some from the cabinet, plus the heads of the three powers, the board of management of the Council of Experts—were formed, including the views of all the powers involved in the country's affairs, the revision or addendum would naturally be stronger and better. As far as I know, the various individuals and organs take the same view, possibly differing over the number of members. But the general view is this group should consist of representatives of all the powers. This, of course, is merely a proposal.

[Correspondent] Mr Bayat, do you have a specific view on this?

[Bayat] In completing the remarks by my very dear brother Mr Ansari, I would like to say that both of these are proposals and that the final decision will be taken by the great leader. However, it is because the deputized have experienced the bottlenecks in practice more than others that this composition was proposed to his eminence the imam. Therefore, I think that these proposals conform with each other and are complementary to each other. When we propounded this as deputies of the Majlis, we wanted to present our view to the imam, desiring him to make the final decision.

[Correspondent] Mr Bayat, the situation now is that the Constitution, which was influenced by the circumstances in which it was approved and the people involved in drawing it up, is filled with lofty meaning and with traditional Islamic ideals. Ten years of experience have highlighted its ambiguous points. However, some people worry that executive problems and issues affected by this Constitution in practice will, in this revision and possible change, threaten these ideals and this lofty meaning. What steps should be considered, in your opinion, in order to avoid this?

[Bayat] In my opinion, this is the crux of the matter, and I would like to refer to certain points. Meanwhile, I have a proposal to make which I will do, God willing, after Mr Ansari's remarks.

The Constitution has positive characteristics that cannot be compared with any other Constitution anywhere in the world. It may be among the rarest constitutions in the world when it comes to presenting ideals and a general attitude based on Islamic principles and Islamic and human values. [passage omitted] The dear deputies who want to remove ambiguities from the Constitution and call for an amendment have these characteristics in mind. [passage omitted] The proposals made to the imam take into account the fact that the supervision of such a leader will definitely keep these lofty principles immune. We insist on the preservation and the stability of these principles.

Our main effort is aimed at removing those ambiguities that create bottlenecks, both in executive affairs—which was explained by our dear brother—and... [Bayat changes thought] For example, Article 130 of the Constitution specified the duties of the prime minister. However, this is done in such a way, with such terminology, that when it comes to implementation it shows that the prime minister is the head of the ministers but cannot be questioned in the Majlis.

As the Council of Guardians commented: What kind of a prime minister is this who is both the head of the ministers and shoulders the responsibility for making the decisions of the entire government but who, at the same time, cannot have executive powers? The issue of the Supreme Judicial Council has already been discussed by Mr Ansari. Moreover, we have principles in the Constitution that do not harm the lofty principles; and these principles should remain. All our brothers agree on the fact that the main principles of the Constitution should endure. But it is not inconsistent for us to review those principles that create a series of bottlenecks in action or to remove ambiguities. In some cases the terminology should be changed, and in other cases only one word should be added. [passage omitted]

Therefore, both the Supreme Judicial Council and the Majlis, and all those who are interested in some revisions in the Constitution, think that a group of committed experts who believe in maintaining the lofty values of the Constitution should study it and present the results of their study to the imam. The imam, God willing, would then make the final decision with his extreme foresight that has always opend the way for our nation and our revolution.

[Correspondent] Mr Ansari, the ambiguities which Mr Bayat also discussed in his remarks, as far as the duties of the executive power and the prime minister are concerned, have created many problems for the executive in carrying out its activities. Two views are now being propounded on how to resolve this issue. One is that we should surmount these ambiguities and clarify certain points. The other is to abolish the position of prime minister and assign the prime minister's duties to the president. What are the strong and weak points of these two plans?

[Ansari] I think that there are actually three solutions, or three plans, not two. One is that, as you stated, the shortcomings should be removed in such a way that the two executive positions—the presidency and the premiership—are maintained but the limits of their duties are determined and the problem overcome. The second is that the post of prime minister be removed from the executive system and the president carry out his duties as head of the executive and head of the cabinet. The third is that the post of president be dissolved and the prime minister head the executive branch. These are the three plans.

I have been working on the Constitution's shortcomings for a long time. Last year I pinpointed all the shortcomings, stated some of my views to the officials of the country, and listed the major disadvantages of the Constitution. I believe that it is very difficult for these to be removed from the Constitution in such a way that former problems between the president and the prime minister are resolved as far as defining duties and rights is concerned, and possibly not a very necessary thing to do. There are countries in the world where the two posts are merged. Of course, our system is special because of the presence of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult] and, thank God, all knots and deadlocks are overcome with the implementation of the right of the velayat-e faqih.

In some parts of the world there is a prime minister and a person in charge of the country's executive affairs, and there are countries where the executive rights are in the hands of the president who also supervises the ministers. Therefore, this is a difficult assumption. It seems that the two other solutions remain—that is, that we merge the executive system as far as its management is concerned, so that one person is in charge. At this point, I have no specific view on either of these two. Both have strong and weak points. My studies have shown there is something that I can present here as an elementary view: What is wrong with our having, say, a president with full executive rights and for ministers to be under his supvervision so that the lack of coordination that has existed so far can be removed?

[Correspondent] Apparently, Mr Bayat, also has specific views on this.

[Bayat] Yes. This is one of the good questions which has been discussed for a long time. I would like to state the weak and strong points of all three alternatives and will leave the judgment to the people. The statement by my brother Mr Ansari was very good.

In view of the type of division found in the Constitution, the Majlis enjoys higher rights. The Majlis has two basic rights. One is the [word indistinct], and the other is supervision. Possibly the strongest mechanism of the Majlis' supervision is the very vote of confidence that it gives to the government. Thus, if we are to define the responsibilities of the presidency and the premiership and to remove the lack of coordination that sometimes arises—even though I, also accept that this is a relatively difficult thing to do—nevertheless, in view of the rights of the velayat-e faqih, this procedure should be given priority because we will be tampering with the Constitution less and making fewer changes.

The more we strive for the stability of the Constitution, the better it is. But if we cannot achieve this, then we should recognize that the president's strong point is that he receives a direct vote from the people. Such a person, naturally, will show more decisiveness if he is also the head of the executive power and of the cabinet. However, in this case the Majlis will not be able to exercise its supervision. Also a prime minister who is selected by a president who has in turn received the people's direct vote, will not answer to the Majlis and cannot be held responsible by it.

On the basis of my research on the concentration of power, I see that throughout history only a canonical ruler—a person of extreme piety—can do this. But the concentration of power in one place will inevitably give rise to a series of political and social dangers in the future. If the rights of the president are to be reduced, or all the rights are placed in the hands of the prime minister in the legislative system, and the prime minister and his cabinet receive a vote of confidence from the Majlis, naturally the Majlis will [make a less serious mistake].

The Majlis now has 270 deputies. If this principle is not changed, and we continue to have one deputy for every 150,000 people, in 10 years time the number of Majlis deputies will be higher. We believe that a bigger group is less capable than one individual of making a mistake. Even though our current president and prime minister are, fortunately, extremely outstanding people. Nevertheless, we are not writing a Constitution for this president and this prime minister. We are writing it for the entire system and for generations to come. We believe that we should [maintain] the supervision by the Majlis which heads the [legislative] power, something which the imam also emphasizes.

[Correspondent] Mr Ansari, one of the issues propounded is that some believe that the Constitution has not been fully implemented so far and that a revision can be considered when it has been fully implemented. What do you think of this?

[Ansari] I do not accept this assessment. This does not mean that we have fully implemented the Constitution. The first part of your question is accepted by everyone—that is, many of the long-term ideals of the Constitution need more time and more possibilities for implementation and were not implemented because of the many economic-military-political problems created for us by our enemies during the past 10 years. This hindered the Constitution's rapid and full implementation. Even if during the past 10 years we had not had any problems, some of the ideals are so long-term that time is needed. [passage omitted] The faults in the Constitution, whose revision is now in question, are faults that have been discovered while we were putting the Constitution into practice. [passage omitted]

I think that more can be said about the previous question. There is no problem in our amending the Constitution so that the president can answer to the Majlis. We do not want to say either a president or a prime minister within the current framework. What is clear as far as the executive power is concerned is that we have one person in charge with all the strong points to which Mr Bayat referred and who can both have the vote of the people and answer to the Majlis, and thus rapidly advance the executive power without the current delays and doubts. This is the intention. Therefore, the places that we have experienced [problems] are the executive and the judiciary powers.

I would also like to refer to a point that has not been brought up so far. This is the interpretation of the Constitution by the respectable Council of Guardians, or the breaking of the deadlock in the judiciary. When the Majlis approves a bill, the Council of Guardians states that this is contrary to the Constitution or to the shari'a.

The bill is returned to the Majlis to be amended. These comings and goings continue for so long that the affairs of the country are delayed. This was an issue that we faced throughout the past and current legislative sessions.

This ultimately led to the imam's formation of the Expediency Discernment Council in order to break the deadlock. Therefore, the issue is not that because we have not implemented the Constitution, we have met deadlocks we want to break. No. When we were implementing the Constitution, faults showed up. This is what we want to reform, and for the entire world, all countries, and all systems, it is not unusual to revise a constitution. Therefore, I do not fully accept this assessment.

[Correspondent] Mr Bayat, as you pointed out previously, the Constitution has great significance in every system. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran has gained special significance because its backbone is the blood of tens of thousands of martyrs and because it is the fruit of many experts' efforts. Propounding the need for constitutional ammendments has made some concerned that in the future, as difficulties and problems emerge, the same procedure will be used and the Constitution constantly changed every time there is a problem. In your opinion, what guarantees should be included in the Constitution to prevent this?

[Bayat] [Passage omitted] The Constitution has a series of principles that cannot be changed with time. The same applies to the holy shari'a and its stable principles that do not change as time passes. However, we have a series of principles and criteria that change with time. Those amendments, which are in question now and which I pointed out in answer to a previous question mainly concern organizational and executive issues. They have nothing to do with the ideals, general objectives, and general principles that are so holy to us. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Ansari, do you have anything to add to this?

[Ansari] While confirming Mr Bayat's remarks, I would like to add there there is nothing wrong with amending other faults in the next 10 or 20 years. I should explicitly say that the Constitution, even though it allies the people to a system and a revolution, is not unalterable, like divine law. Religious and shari'a issues are changeable issues. The purpose of ejtehad [interpretation of Islamic law] is to interpret these issues. If this were not the case, we would only have the divine commandments, not the roles of leadership, of ejtehad, and of the fatwa. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] I think that the last question is on the issue of the system's leadership. Some believe that this will be reviewed. The principles of the Constitution concerning the issue of leadership emphasize the authority of the leader and of the future council of leadership. The experts who approved this were undoubtedly aware of the society's realities. Nevertheless, this decision was made in view of these problems, and the authority of the leader was emphasized. What is the reason behind all this emphasis on the issue?

[Bayat] The issue of the Velayat-e Faqih, or of the leadership that should be in the hands of the Velayat-e Faqih, is the basis of our system and is not something which we can discuss in this way and ask why this emphasis is placed. [passage omitted] Therefore, no change of view is taking place about the principle of the leadership by the fully qualified Velayat-e Faqih unless, God forbid, the system is changed. [passage omitted]

However, in Article 107 of the Constitution where the issue of leadership and the Council of Leadership is discussed, in addition to the issue of leadership, the word marja' [source of emulation] also has been repeated. Our experts faced a situation where they made decisions under the supervision of someone, a leader, who was the imam. [passage omitted] In a situation where an ideological influence exists for which the society is prepared to give blood, their youths, and everything they have, a marja' is needed. In such a situation can someone come and say that there should be a leader or a leadership council but no marja'?

This reality exists. It was natural that under this kind of circumstance nothing but this could have applied. Of course, at this point we should relate what the people want. May God preserve our imam forever. But, at any rate, we should make the necessary forecasts for the future. What is indicated in Article 5 of the Constitution and in the beginning of the Constitution is not the marja'. What is stated there is the criterion of legality, of a just canonical leadership and a suitable just mojtahed [senior cleric authorized to interpret Islamic law].

If this much is done, then we will not have any problems in the future as far as the principle of leadership and the Council of Leadership is concerned. Meanwhile, I should add that this is my personal view. The view that will apply is the imam's view. We do not know what his view is. We hope to be able to solve this problem in the future with his directives that have always opened the path for us.

[Correspondent] Mr Ansari, what are your views on this?

[Ansari] I do not have anything to add to what has already been said. But I would like to repeat the prayers of all the people and of all the strugglers that God Almighty may extend the shadow of the imam of the ummah on the oppressed and on Muslim nations until the reappearance of the imam of the ages. Thus, we will not need to bring up the issue of the leader or of the leadership council.

However, because the Constitution should remain strong, then I must state that as far as I know when the Constitution was being written and the article concerning the leadership was brought up, the view of his eminence the imam was that the phrase "from among the mojtaheds" and not "from among the marja'" be included. However, because the majority of the experts held this view, the present form was written.

I think that by changing this phrase to "from among the mojtaheds" the problem will be overcome. This was fully explained by our brother Bayat. However, as the article on leadership in the Constitution is of great significance and depth, we may not be worthy of stating our views. This is something that depends on the imam himself and on his outlook and foresight on all issues, especially on the issue of leadership.

[Correspondent] I thank you for having participated in this program. I leave you, dear viewers, until the next program with hopes that your prayers will be accepted in the auspicious month of Ramadan.

Daily Cited on Constitutional Amendments Issue

LD2704110789 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI today commented on the ongoing debates over amendments to the Constitution and the task of the special body named by the imam to tackle the issue.

Some are of the opinion that those administering laws are to blame for the said defects in the Constitution rather than the Constitution itself, said its editorial.

The argument, said the daily "can neither be totally rejected nor accepted." Once we assume that the defficiency is with those who execute the laws, we conclude that in the early years of the Islamic revolution there was no one who could work with the law, it added.

"If this is the case, one cannot hope that in future more competent people will be found to work with these same laws without any problem," commented JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI. "In fact the experience of the past decade shows the opposite," said the paper. It indicates, it went on that the present collective management at higher levels of the country has not been "a success" and "therefore, scrapping the high judicial council and creating a unified management will help solve some of the problems of the judicial system if not all."

Failure of this sort of management must have been the reason for the current talks for a single leadership or scrapping it all together rather that maintaining it in a collective form, it said.

The task of the body the paper said has to propose the necessary alterations within two months and put it to a public referrendum before the presidential elections.

It is clear the body faces a heavy resposibility in deciding the future of leadership of the Islamic state and the people expect it to make decisions which will not pose any danger to the revolution.

Commentary on State Punishments Law

NC2704133889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Apr 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. The regulations on implementing the law on state punishments were published yesterday. With their publication, the preliminary steps to implement fully the new law on fighting high prices, on hoarding, and on other violations in the production and distribution sectors are gradually being taken. These regulations clarify to a certain extent some of the ambiguities in the law on punishments. [passage omitted]

Now that these regulations are published, we should wait for the list and services that fall under the plan to be published, for the over 7,000 inspectors to be assigned, and for the headquarters and centers which will implement this law to be formed. The law on state punishments was approved late last [Iranian] year by the Expediency Discernment Council in 6 articles and 56 paragraphs. [passage omitted]

Due to the absence of a program and a pre-determined plan, the first stage of the new movement to fight high prices and hoarding was markedly weak. The law was to become effective 9 April. But when the time came to implement it, it was clear that the preliminary steps for the plan's implementation had not yet been taken. [passage omitted]

However, despite the fact that several difficulties in implementing the new law on state punishments have emerged, it is hoped that rapid and timely preparation of the steps to implement it will end the people's desire for a practical fight against profiteers and hoarders through a decisive stand against violators. Certainly, a weak implementation of this law and the absnece of a program to implement it will ultimately be tantamount to its not being implemented.

Based on the experience of previous years, if the new law on state punishments is implemented, a relative decrease followed by stability in the prices of some goods and services is expected within a few weeks. This possibility will be destroyed in a very short time if the law is not consistently implemented and if long-term infrastructural programs are not considered. Some economic analysts believe that along with implementing the law on state punishments and until it is actually implemented, the faults in the distribution system and the multi-rate system of foreign exchange should be removed. Meanwhile, in order to remove the main opportunities for profiteering by economic terrorists, precise economic growth and development programs will be necessary.

Pakistan

5 Ministers of NWFP Government Resign
BK2804024989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] In the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP], five ministers and an adviser of the chief minister—all members of the Awami National Party [ANP] in the NWFP government [a coalition of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and the ANP]—have resigned.

APP, quoting an ANP spokesman, said the ministers and the adviser tendered their resignations following the non-implementation of a PPP-ANP agreement that a person belonging to the ANP would be appointed governor of the province.

The spokesman added that the ANP will, however, continue to support the present government in the Provincial Assembly.

The ministers and the adviser who resigned are: Haji Wali Mohammad Khan, Mohammad Karim Babak, Awal Sher, Baz Mohammad Khan, Mohammad Bashir Khan Umarzai, and adviser Munawwar Khan.

Spokesman Denies Indian Report on Siachen Posts
BK2704111989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense in Rawalpindi today categorically denied the Indian television report that Pakistani troops have established two new posts in Siachen Glacier area.

Describing the report as totally baseless, the spokesman said no new post has been established by the Pakistan Army and added that only necessary defensive measures have been taken in light of some Indian movements and activities noticed in the area.

Paper Says PRC To Sell Nuclear Power Plants
BK2704140089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1341 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, April 27 (AFP)—Pakistan will buy three 300-megawatt nuclear power stations from China, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The Urdu-language daily JANG quoted informed sources as saying that an agreement was reached during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to China in February. Installation will start by December, it said.

There was no official confirmation of the report.

The newspaper also said that Pakistan was negotiating with France, Romania and the Soviet Union to buy nine 900-megawatt nuclear power stations.

Self-Suffiency Attained in Rebuilding Aircraft
BK2704151989 Lahore JANG in Urdu 28 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Kamra, (PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL)—Pakistan has not only achieved self-reliance in rebuilding aircraft, but attained the capability to manufacture them as well.

This was stated by Air Vice Marshal Faruq Umar, the director general of Pakistan Aeronautical Complex [PAC] at Kamra while briefing the country's senior journalists who earlier attended a seminar on the subject of defense organized by the Inter-Service Public Relations Department.

Air Vice Marshal Faruq Umar said that apart from rebuilding and manufacturing aircraft for the Pakistan Air Force, the PAC is also rebuilding and manufacturing planes for brotherly Islamic countries. This was the first time in the history of the country's defense that sensitive military installations and defense production units were opened to the journalists.

Air Vice Marshal Umar said that 92 aircraft have been assembled at the PAC's aircraft manufacturing factory and delivered to the Army and the Air Force. Similarly, 149 A-6 aircraft have been overhauled at the F-6 rebuild factory and 41 Mirage aircraft have been overhauled at the Mirage rebuild factory.

F-6, FT-6, A-53, FT-5 aircraft are being rebuilt and overhauled at PAC factories, while multipurpose training planes—SAAB and MF-117—are being manufactured at Kamra [as published].

The director general said that rebuilding, overhauling and manufacturing facilities are being expanded, and rebuilding of F-7 and A-53 planes is expected to start soon.

He added that rebuilding of F-T5 and F-T6 planes has already been carried out, and the "Karakoram" jet plane is expected to be manufactured within a year. He said that the PAC will be capable of rebuilding F-16 engines within a year's time if everything goes smoothly.

Air Vice Marshal Faruq Umar said that an amount of 3.649 billion rupees is being saved annually by overhauling and rebuilding planes at Kamra. He said that due to limited resources, the country cannot afford to purchase new aircraft. Therefore, only rebuilding planes is in the best interests of the nation.

FRG Provides Loan, Grant of $125 Million

BK2804044489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Text] The Federal Republic of Germany has provided to Pakistan a loan and a grant amounting to $125 million on a low rate of interest.

The Ministry of Development Assistance said in Bonn that during the talks, the two sides agreed that the money will be spent mostly on improving the telecommunication system and water supply, development of agriculture and education, and on-the-job training, while the grant money will be spent on plans related to Afghan refugees in the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan.

Sri Lanka

Government, LTTE Leader Hold Preparatory Talks

BK2704033189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Apr 89

[Text] Talks of a preparatory nature were held between the Sri Lankan Government and the representative of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Mr Anton Balasingham, in Colombo yesterday.

The minister of state for defense, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, told newsmen that nothing substantial except preliminaries, like the venue and time, were discussed. The talks are expected to continue today.

Mr Wijeratne also disclosed that three battalions of the [Indian] Peacekeeping Force will be withdrawn as announced by New Delhi from next Wednesday [3 May] from Trincomalee.

LTTE Observing Cease-Fire Since Peace Talks

BK2804065089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0632 GMT 28 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, April 28 (AFP) - Tamil activists in Sri Lanka have been observing a de facto ceasefire in the northeastern part of the island since talks between separatists and the authorities got underway, officials said Friday.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said there had been no major clashes involving the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and Indian troops since preliminary talks to prepare for a peace dialogue with President Ranasinghe Premadasa began Wednesday.

"It looks like the Tigers are holding their fire. We have had no reports of violence (from the north and east) since Wednesday," the spokesman said.

A spokeswoman at the Indian High Commission here confirmed there had been a lull in violence in the troubled northern and eastern areas where Indian troops have been deployed to disarm the LTTE.

A team of seven senior officials, including Mr. Premadasa's top aide, K.H.J. Wijedasa and Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratne, are due to continue with the talks Friday.

The LTTE's London-based political strategist Anton Balasingam flew in on Wednesday and was expected to be joined by other LTTE leaders based in the island's northern region before substantive talks could begin, officials said.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said the government would arrange safe passage for separatist leaders and guaranteed protection while they were in Colombo for the talks.

It was not immediately known how the first round of talks on Wednesday had progressed but a joint statement by the government and the LTTE said they had been "frank and cordial." [passage omitted]

'Appreciable Decrease of Violence'

BK2804132389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1134 GMT 28 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—No incidents of terrorism have been reported from northern and eastern Sri Lanka since the preparatory talks between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government began Wednesday, while there has been an appreciable decrease of violence in other parts of the island, during the last 48 hours, official sources told LANKAPUVATH today.

Meanwhile, a 15-kilogram landmine was detected and deloused [as received] last evening by an Army foot patrol on the Akuressa-Bangama road in the village of Ilukpelessa in the Southern Province district of Matara.

Security forces Thursday night arrested two men in connection with subversive activities and recovered a 12 bore shotgun from the house of a teacher in the village of Bopitiya, Pannala, in the north western district of Kurunegala.

Security forces also arrested a subversive who was in possession of a 12 bore shot gun at Walakumbura also in Kurunegala yesterday afternoon.

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